

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN®

ISSUE

81

WARRIORS: PART 3



BENDIS
BAGLEY
HANNA

MARVEL®

PREVIOUSLY

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN



The bite of a genetically altered spider granted high school student Peter Parker incredible, arachnid-like powers! When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his amazing abilities to protect his fellow man. He learned the invaluable lesson that with great power must also come great responsibility...

Following his break-up with Mary Jane, Peter Parker's personal life has descended into chaos, as he plunges deeper and deeper into his role as Spider-Man.

Meanwhile, the gang boss known as Hammerhead makes a move into the territory of Wilson Fisk (a.k.a. the Kingpin), pitting Spider-Man against a new costumed vigilante, Moon Knight.

Afterward, Fisk—whom Peter has long tried to put behind bars—lures Spider-Man to his building and provides the young hero with information pinning a recent arson/murder on Hammerhead.

Spidey is left unsure of himself—stopping Hammerhead will undoubtedly help Fisk regain a foothold in his crumbling criminal empire...but leaving Hammerhead alone could cost innocent lives...

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Tandy Bowen for school president.

Yummy!!

Do you smell that?

Ew, don't step on that.

Who cuts your hair?

Oh my!

I transferred from PS#35.

Let's see a show.

What's that smell?

Turn up the music!

Whoa, baby!

Where's the party again?

So do you go to school around here?

Puh-lease.

No way!!

Just ask him. I just need you to ask him--

Where are the chips?

How could you say that!?

Uncomfortable conversations with boys--

You never throw me the ball.

Got you!

You're scared of my natural abilities as an athlete.

I'm open!

On your mark, get set, go!!

Okay, last one to the car is a girl!

Throw it to me.

I'm open.

I want to be an X-Man.

Who are you? Oprah?

You know what guys like nowadays?

I know what you need me to ask.

I'm out.

It's not for you, it's for me.

You gotta let me play, it's my ball.

No I got you first!

I wuv you.

I wuv you too.

But lately she really had been getting her life together.

Would you love me if I was actually a super villain with a giant robotic scorpion tail?

And that's okay. I mean, you know?

Do you think I look fat in these shorts?

Do you want to go to the movies later?

There's nothing to do in this city.

Woah, did you see that?

No, it looks like a pirate ship.

I wuv you so much I want to strangle you in your sleep.

I want to eat your feet.

Really making a go at it.

Seems like a nice guy.

So, where is the party?

Ungh, I think I sat in gum.

I'm hungry, let's get a hot dog.

Well, I'd be lying if I said we got along all that well.

Man, they really cleaned this place up.

You know my sister.

I was just stopping by to get my mail and he got all in my face.

No way am I going there!

I am such a spaz.

I like the library-- it's the only place I can get a nap.

Look what Buddy wrote.

Ted Kennedy was President?

Screw this.

How could you say that!?

You so would not.

I would so do it for you.

Where'd you get those shoes?

Damn, my battery's dead!

You'll never guess what Danny just text messaged me...

Find out if she likes me.

Leeeroy, Dragons!

Comic books? You're a freak!

I wuv you.

This is boring, let's go play video games.

Do you think if I flap my arms fast enough I'll be able to fly?

I was just stopping by to get my mail and he got all in my face.

No way am I going there!

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You have a special quality.

You have your Chem notes?

Did you catch the PK & J show?

No, you're a shmoo pie.

No, you're a shmoo pie.

How many times is this gonna happen?

He so didn't say that!

How much longer?

What's your problem?

Could you be any more lame?

Find out if she likes me.

Leeeroy, Dragons!

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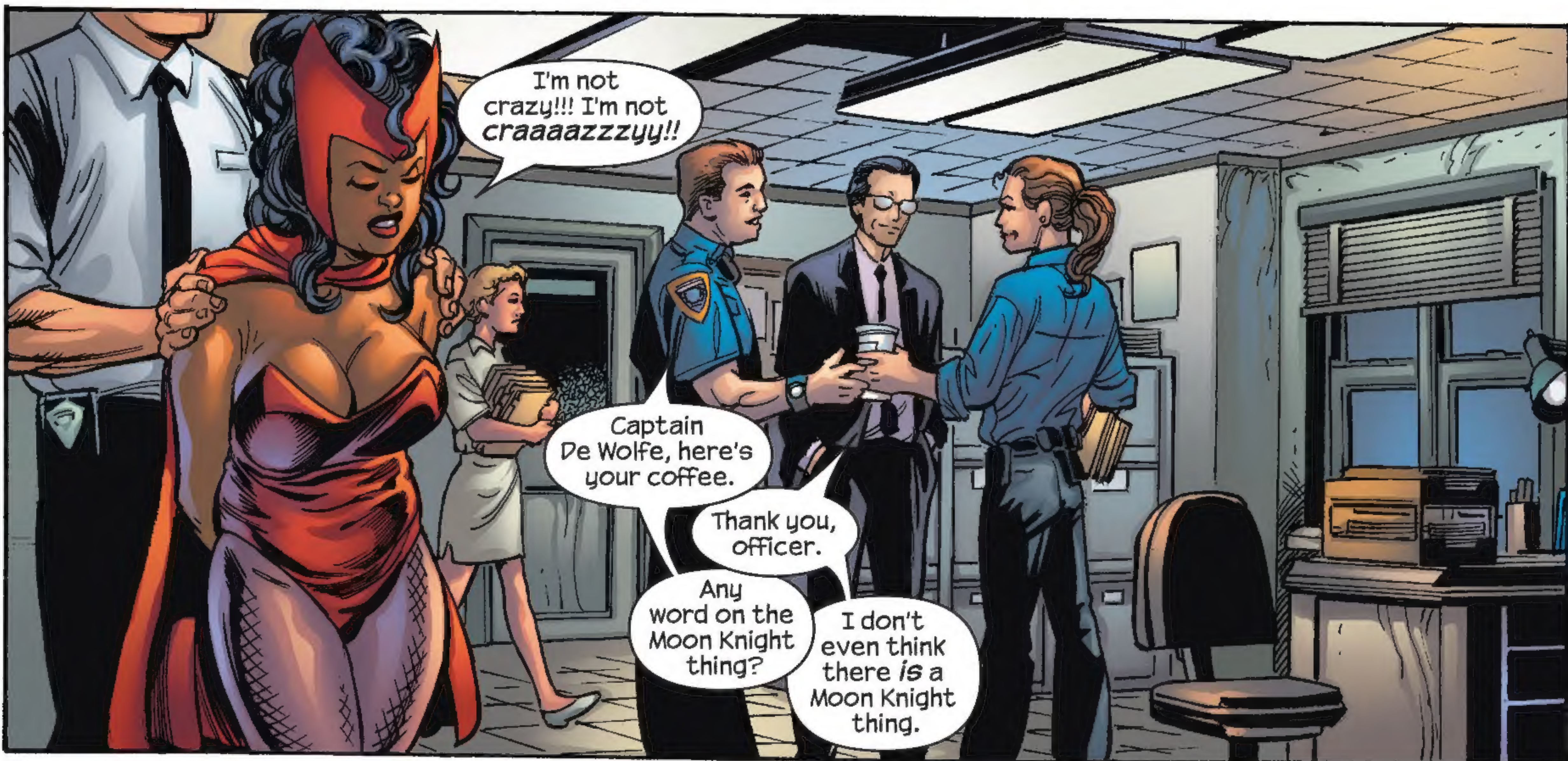
I like the library-- it's the only place I can get a nap.

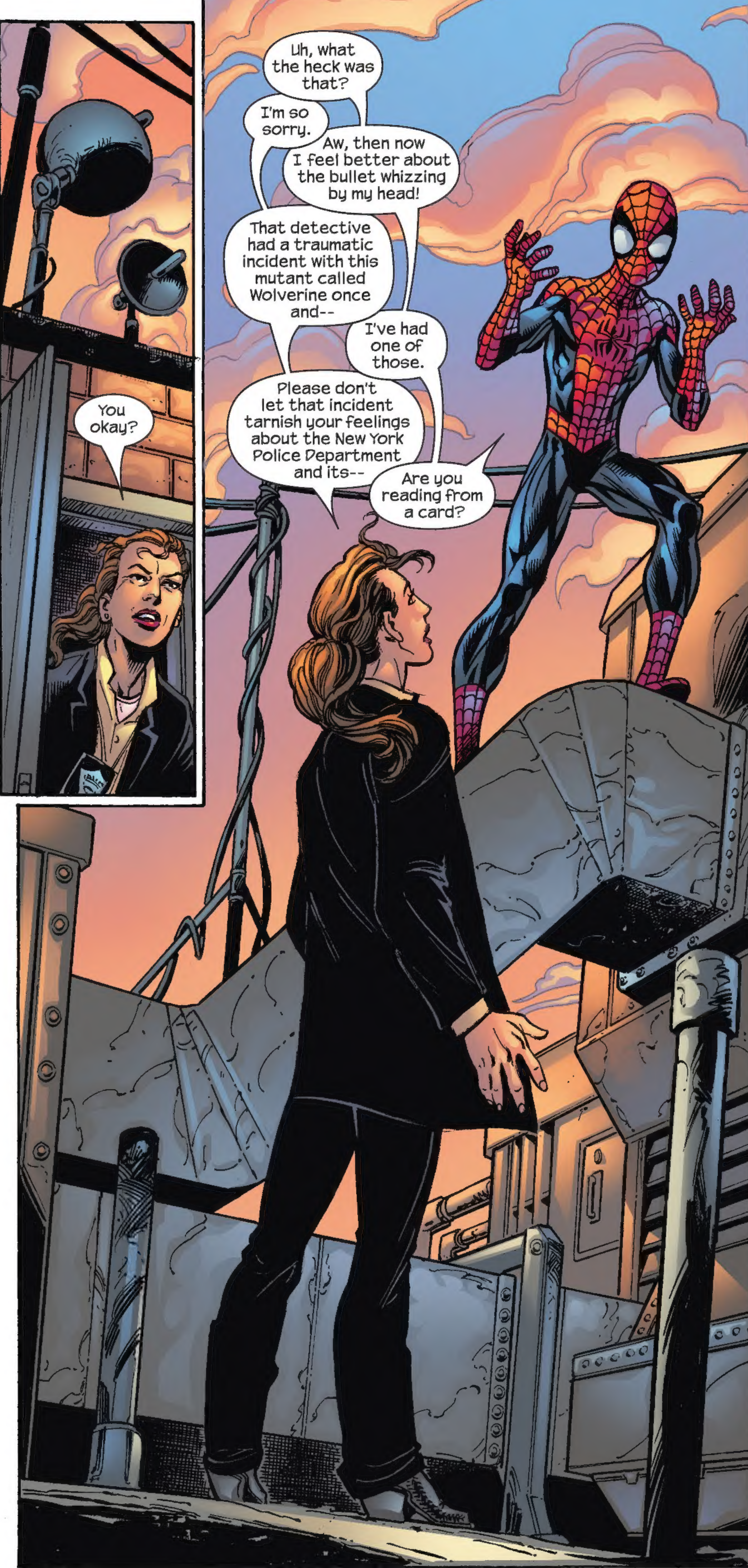
Look what Buddy wrote.

Ted Kennedy was President?

Screw this.







Uh, what the heck was that?

I'm so sorry.

Aw, then now I feel better about the bullet whizzing by my head!

That detective had a traumatic incident with this mutant called Wolverine once and--

I've had one of those.

Please don't let that incident tarnish your feelings about the New York Police Department and its--

Are you reading from a card?

You okay?



Are you okay? What are you doing here?

I came to talk to you.

Why didn't you call? I gave you my card.

I don't have pockets.

Why not?

What?

Why don't you have pockets? Who doesn't have pockets?



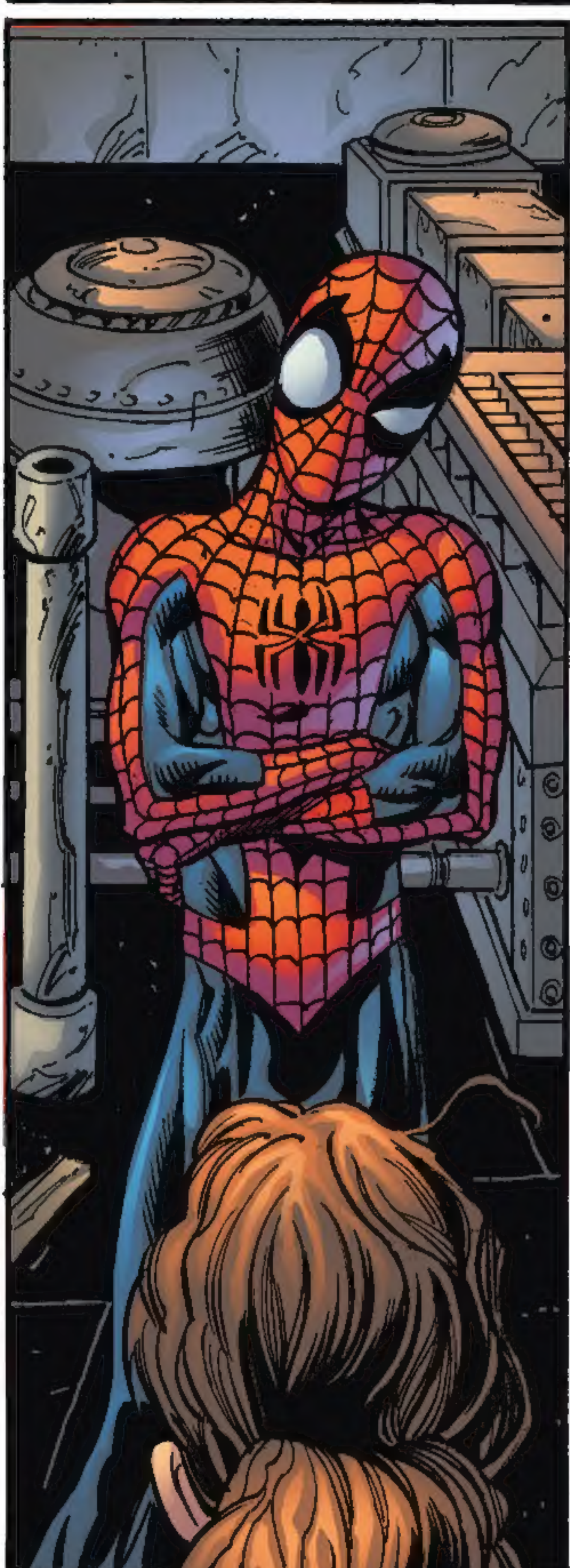
Listen, I need your advice on something.

Not about pockets?

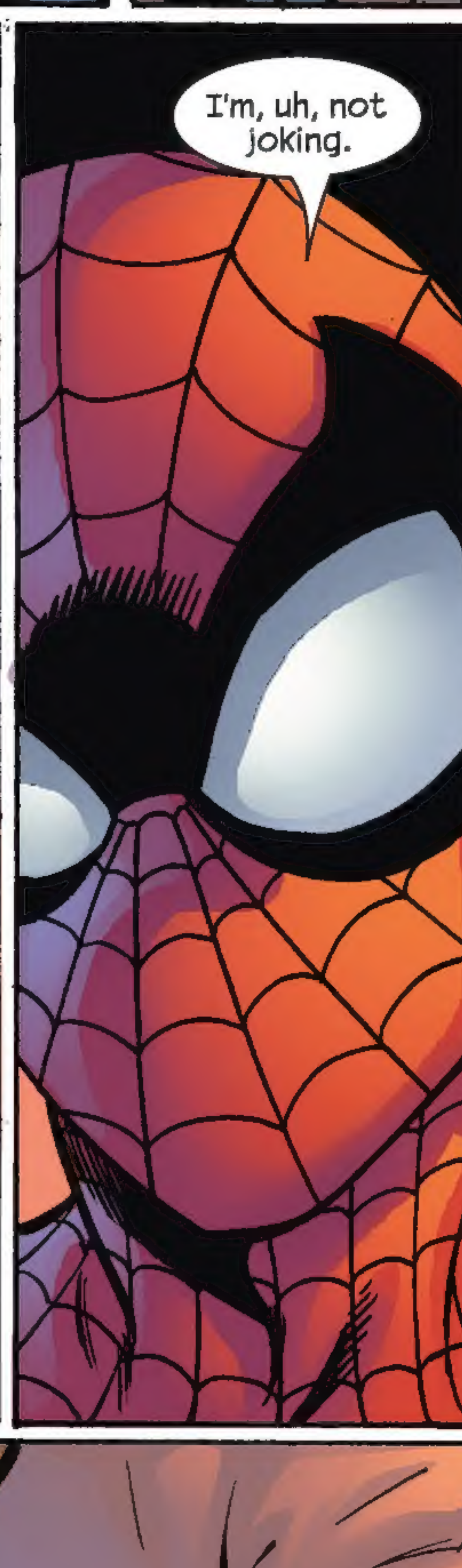
Listen! Yesterday I was having pizza with the Kingpin and--



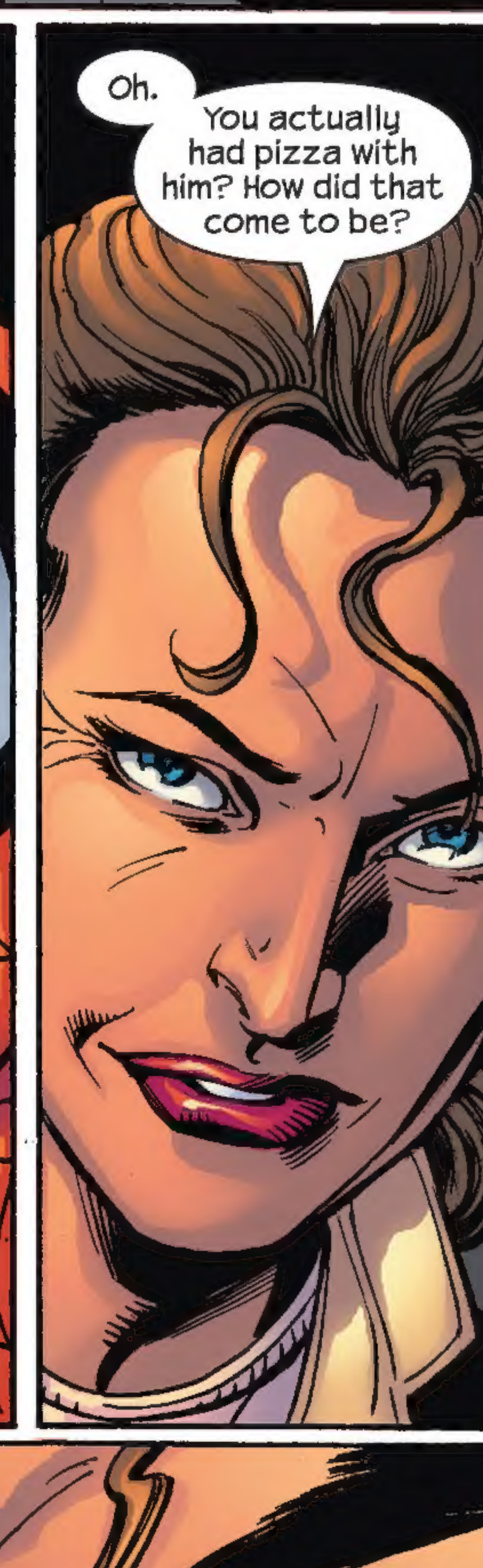
Ha!



And...?

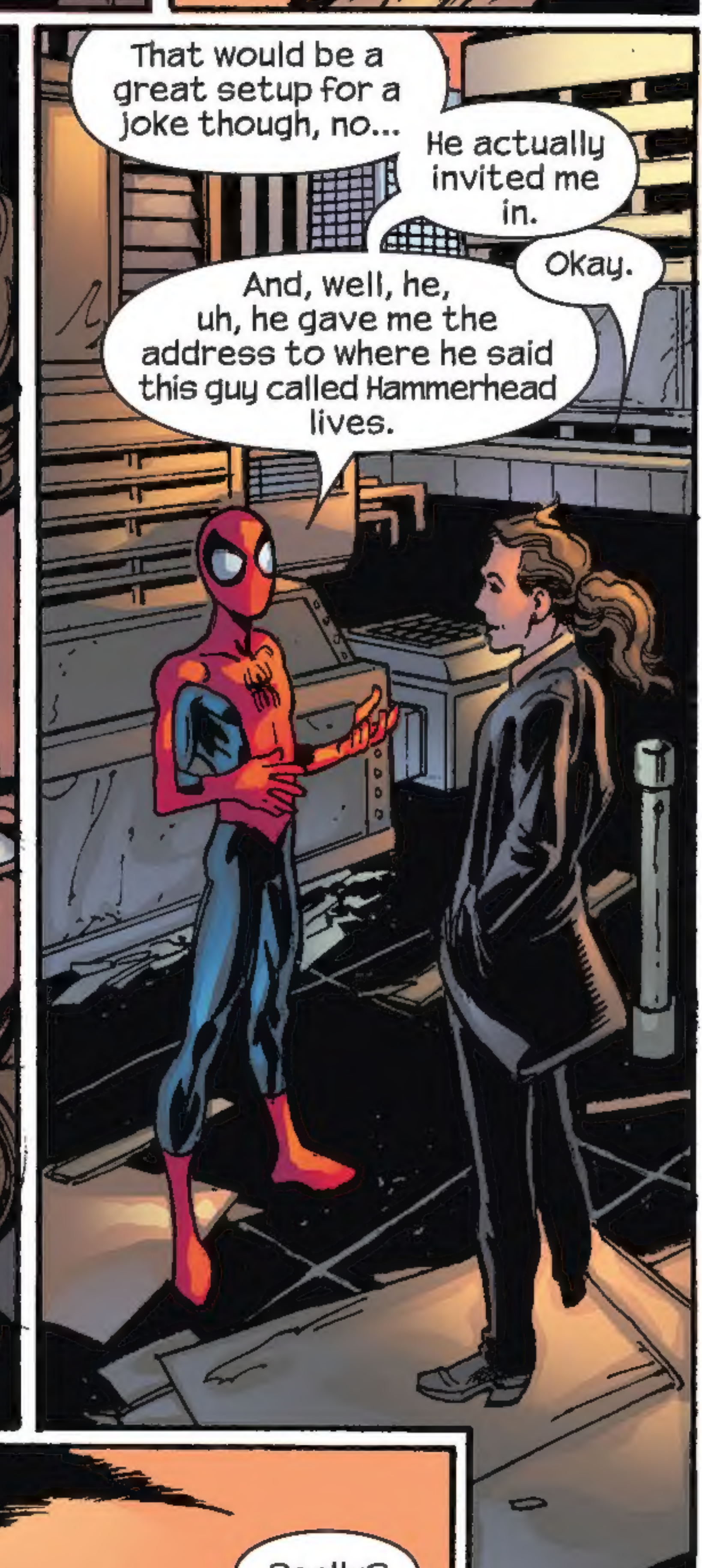


I'm, uh, not joking.



Oh.

You actually had pizza with him? How did that come to be?



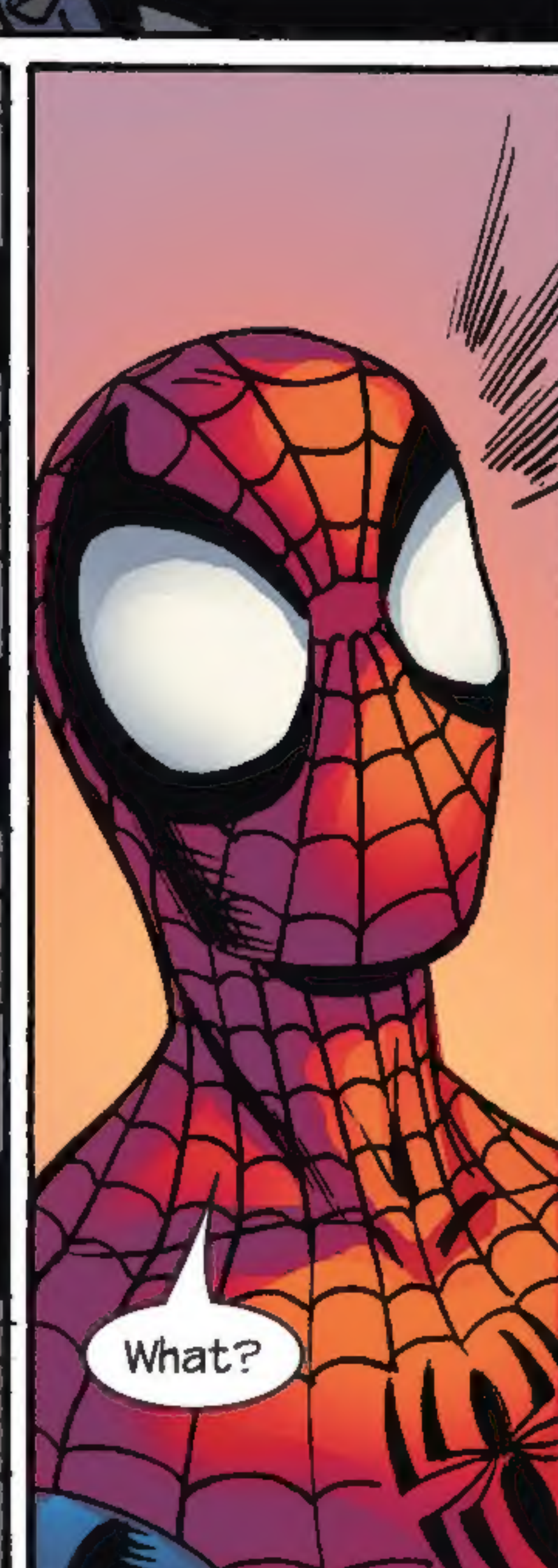
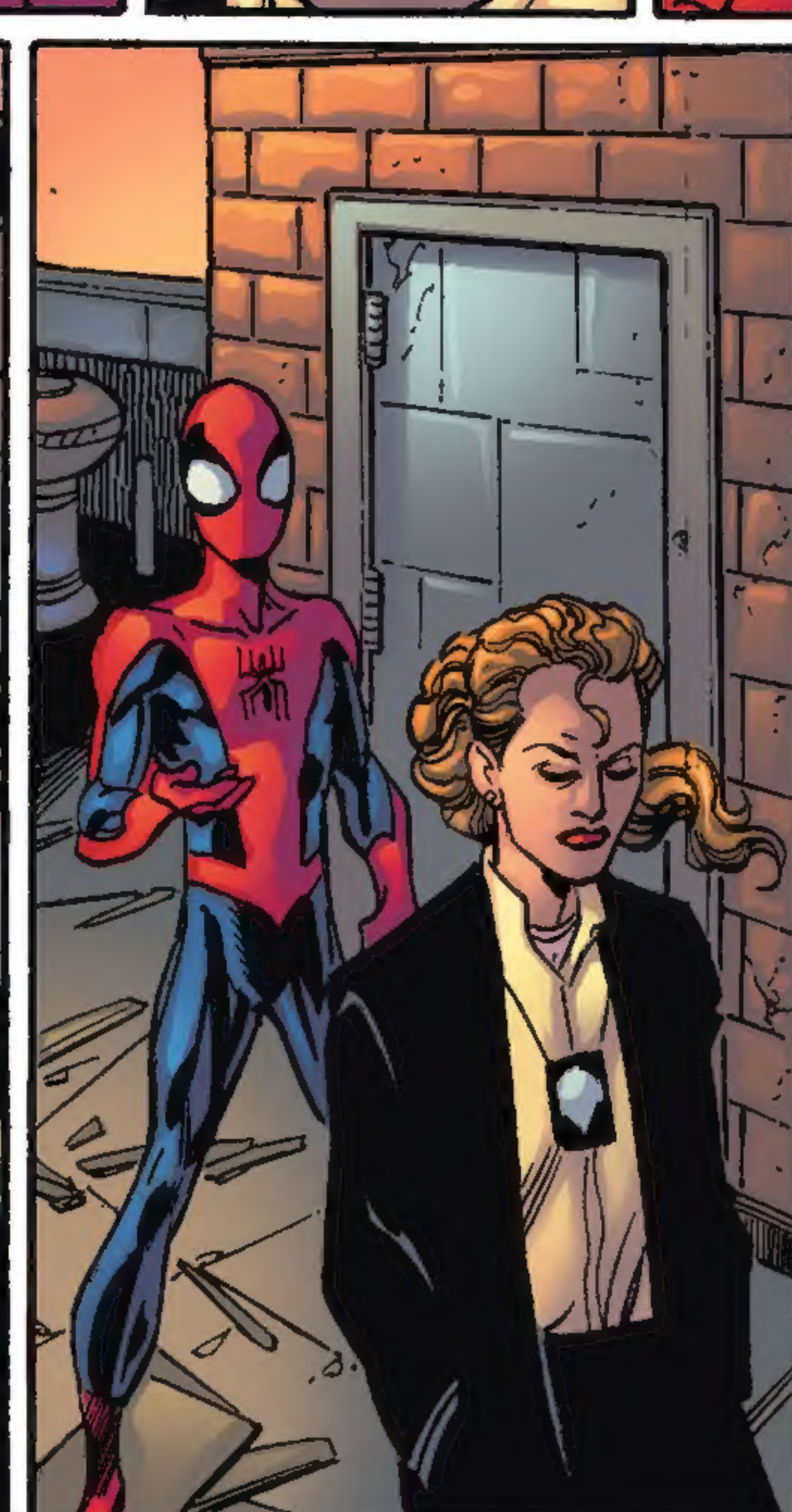
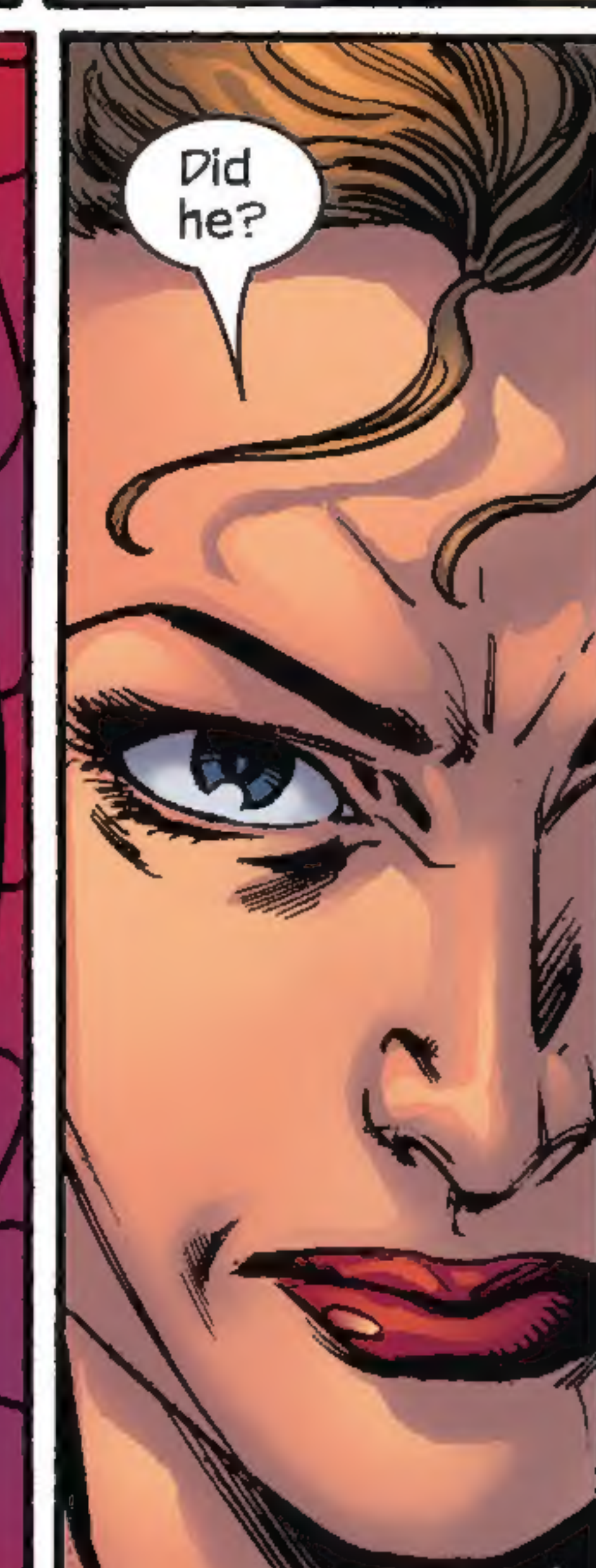
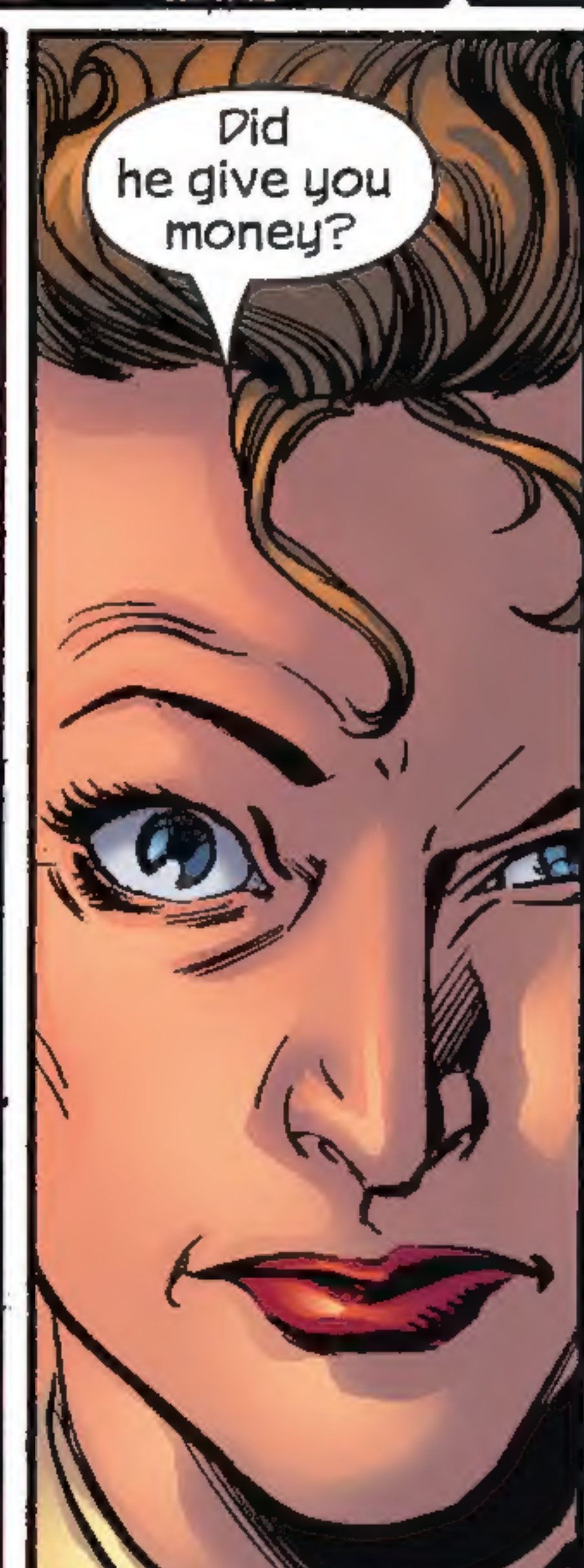
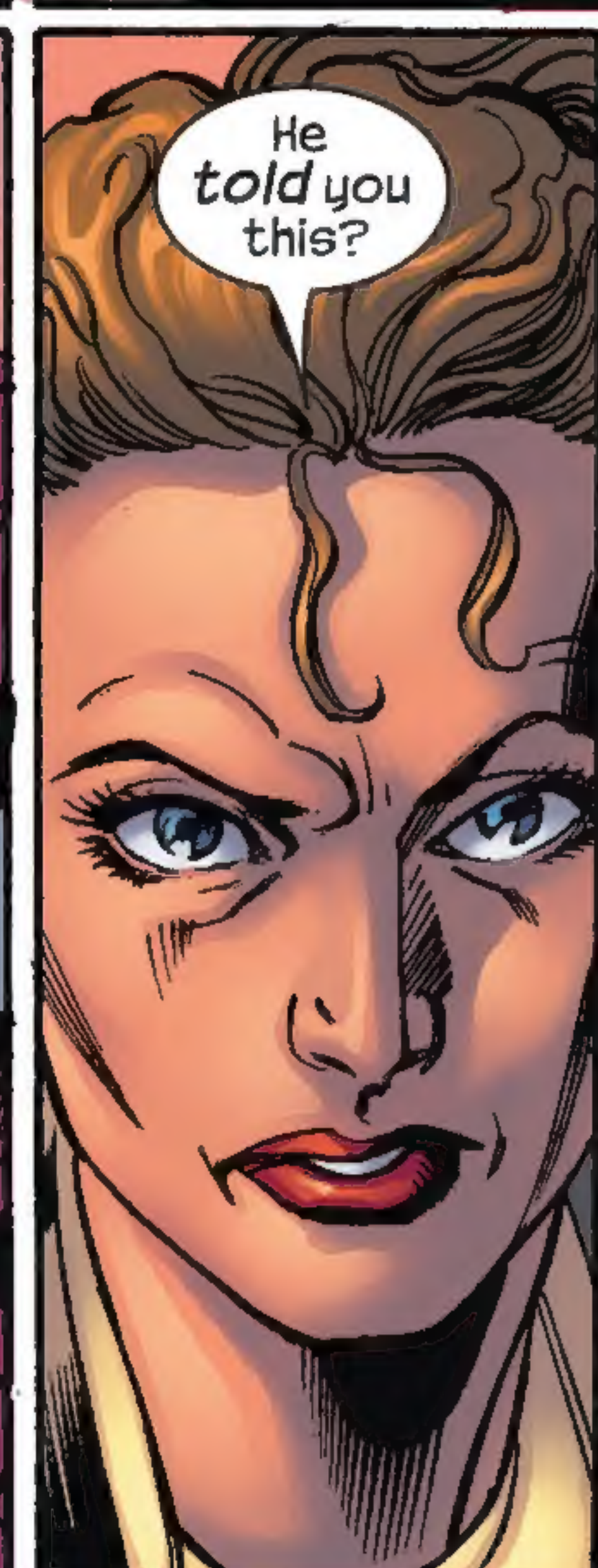
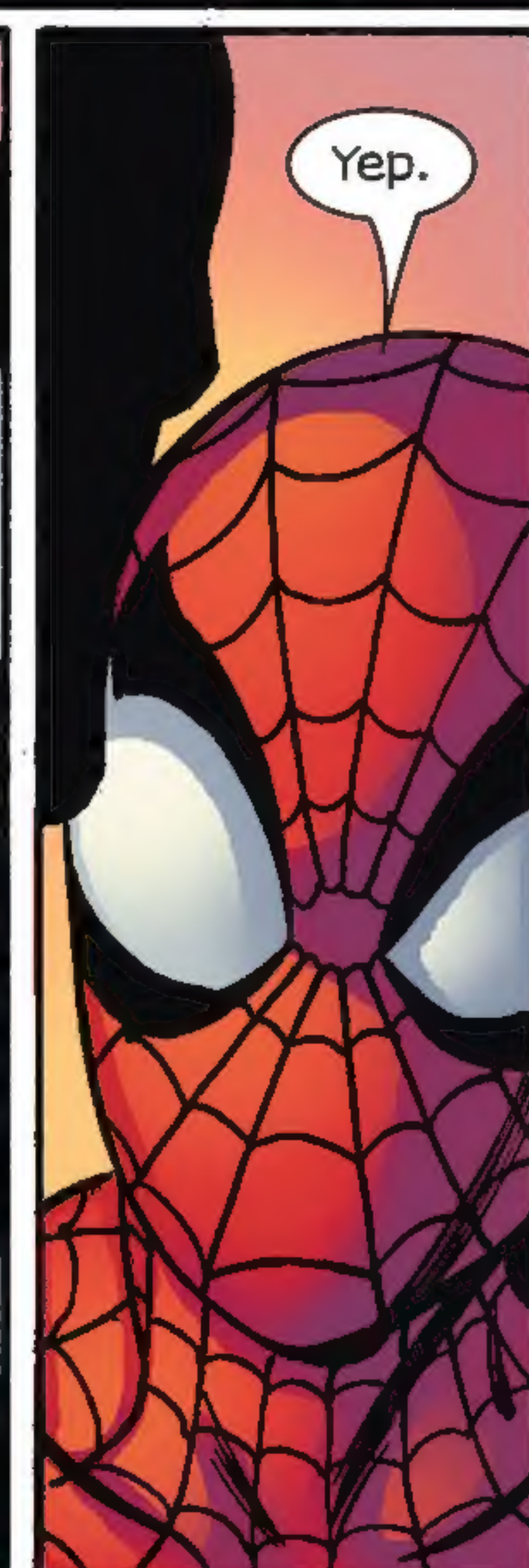
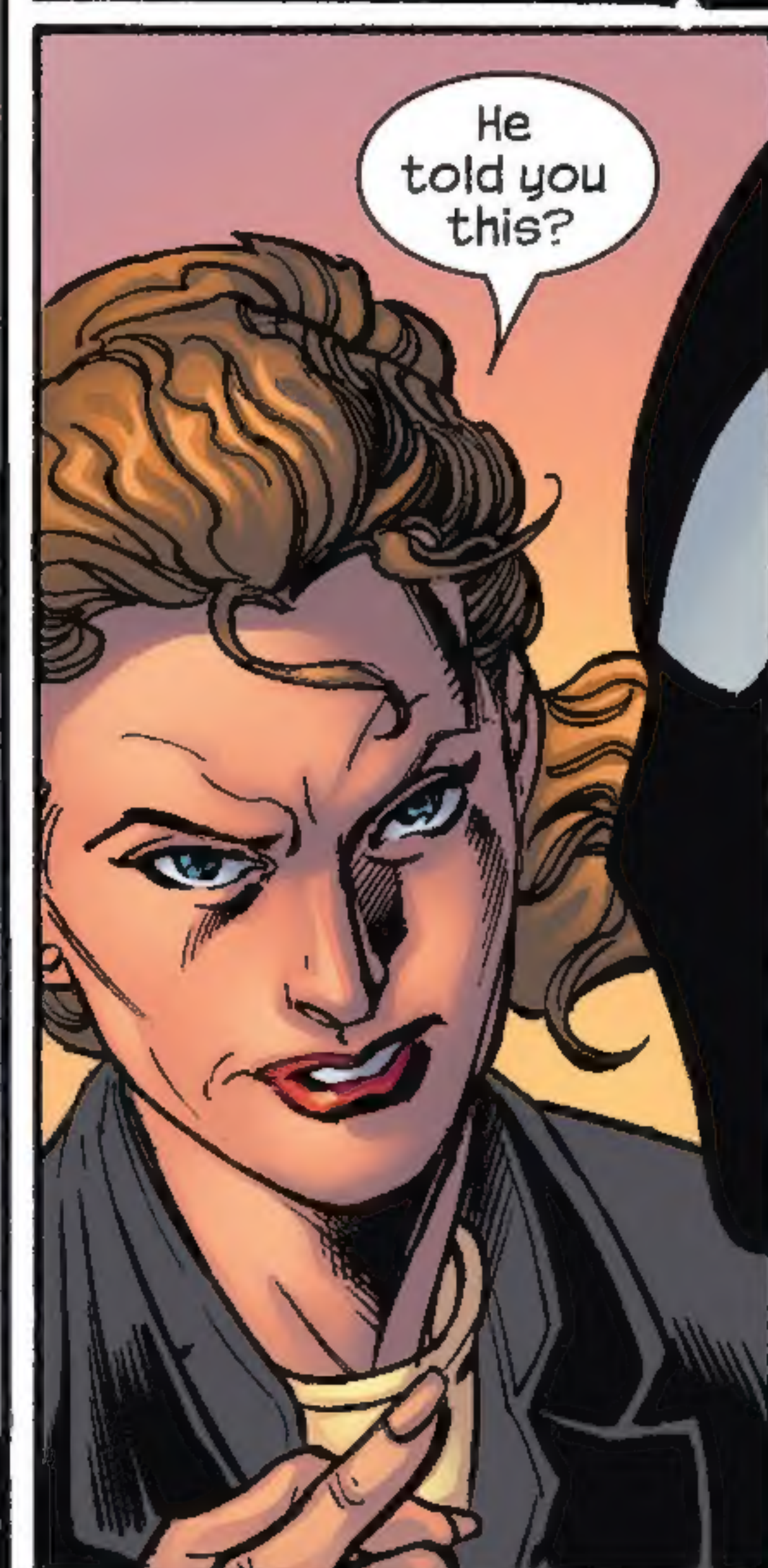
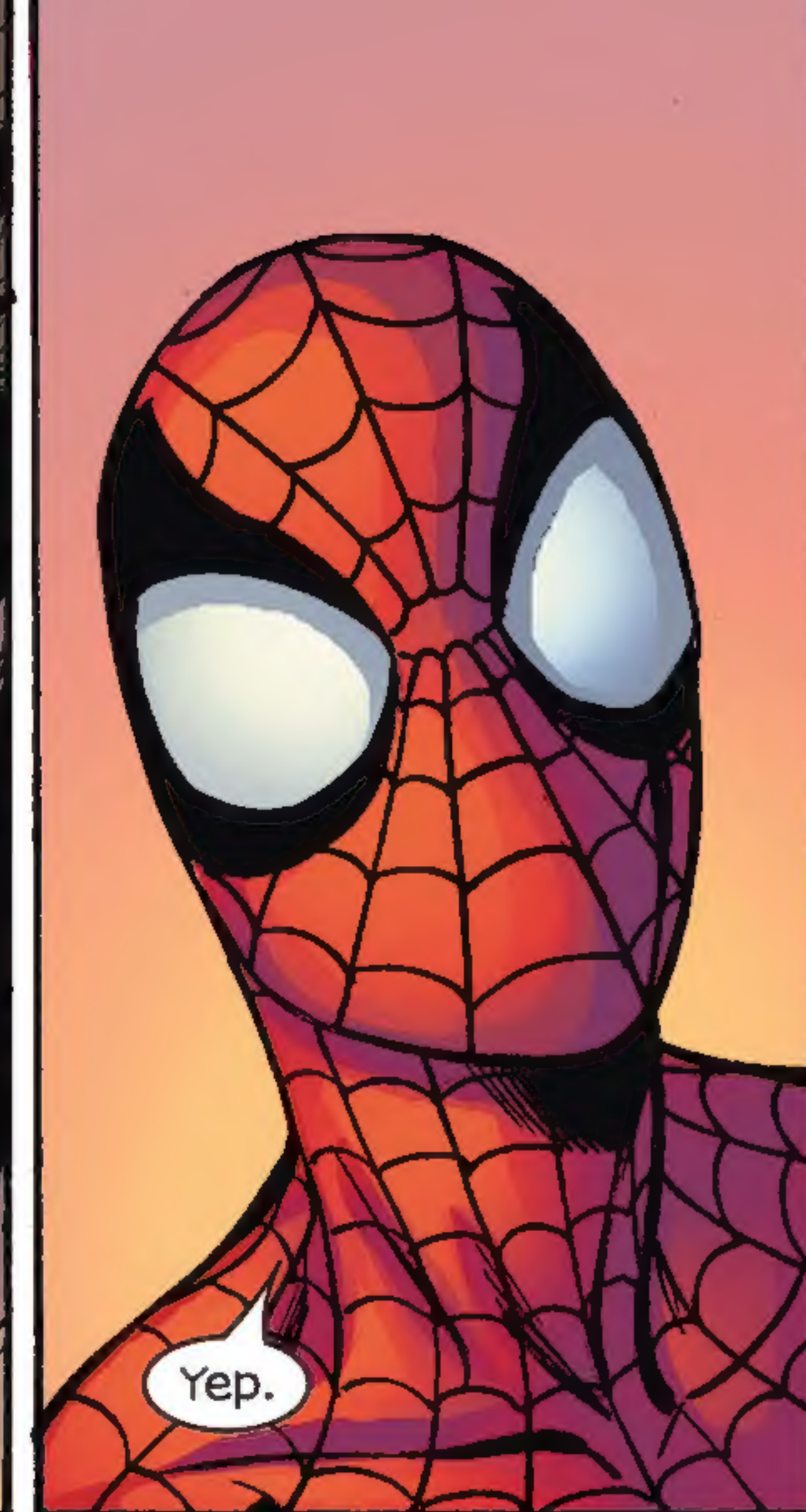
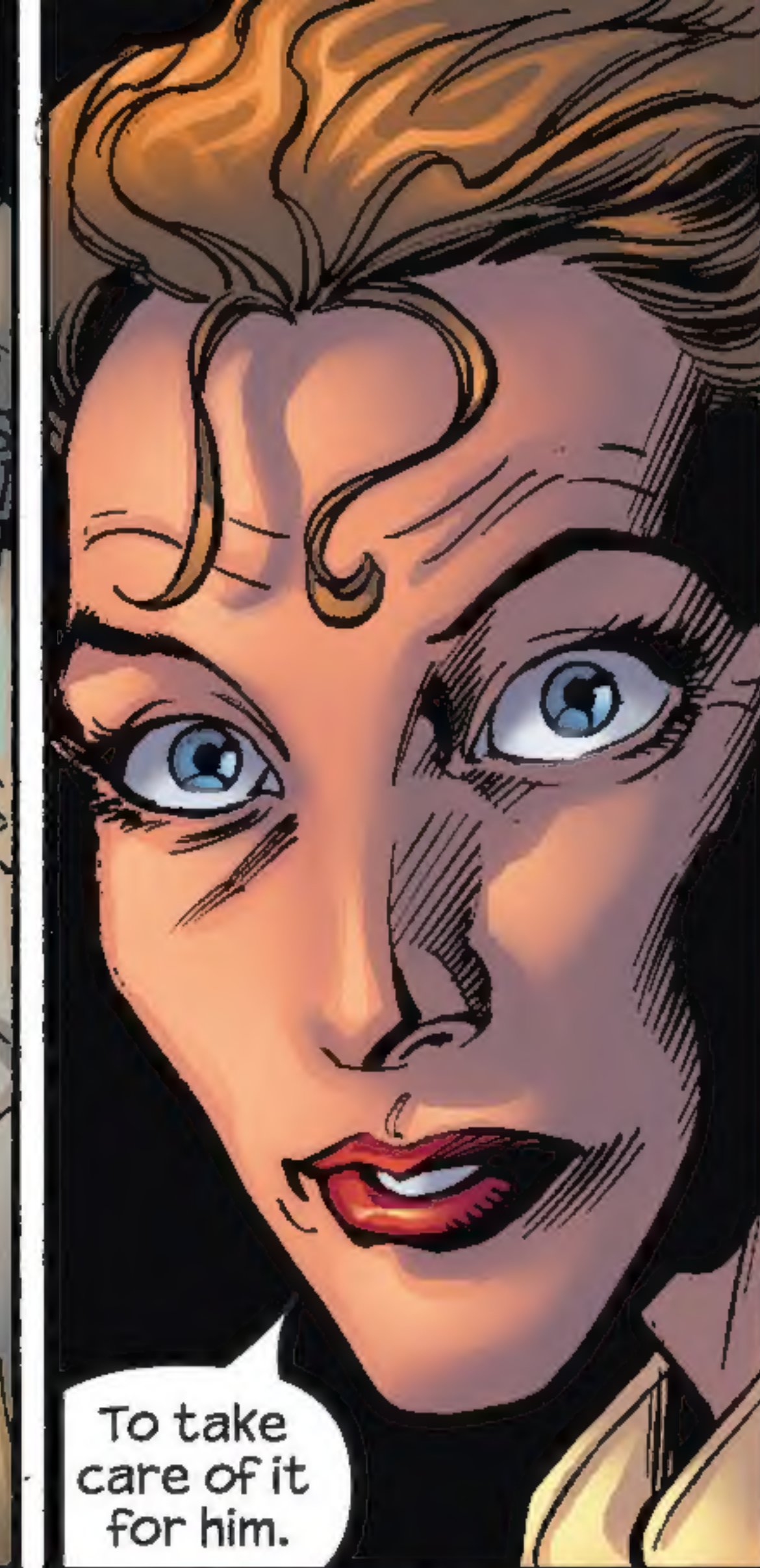
That would be a great setup for a joke though, no... He actually invited me in.

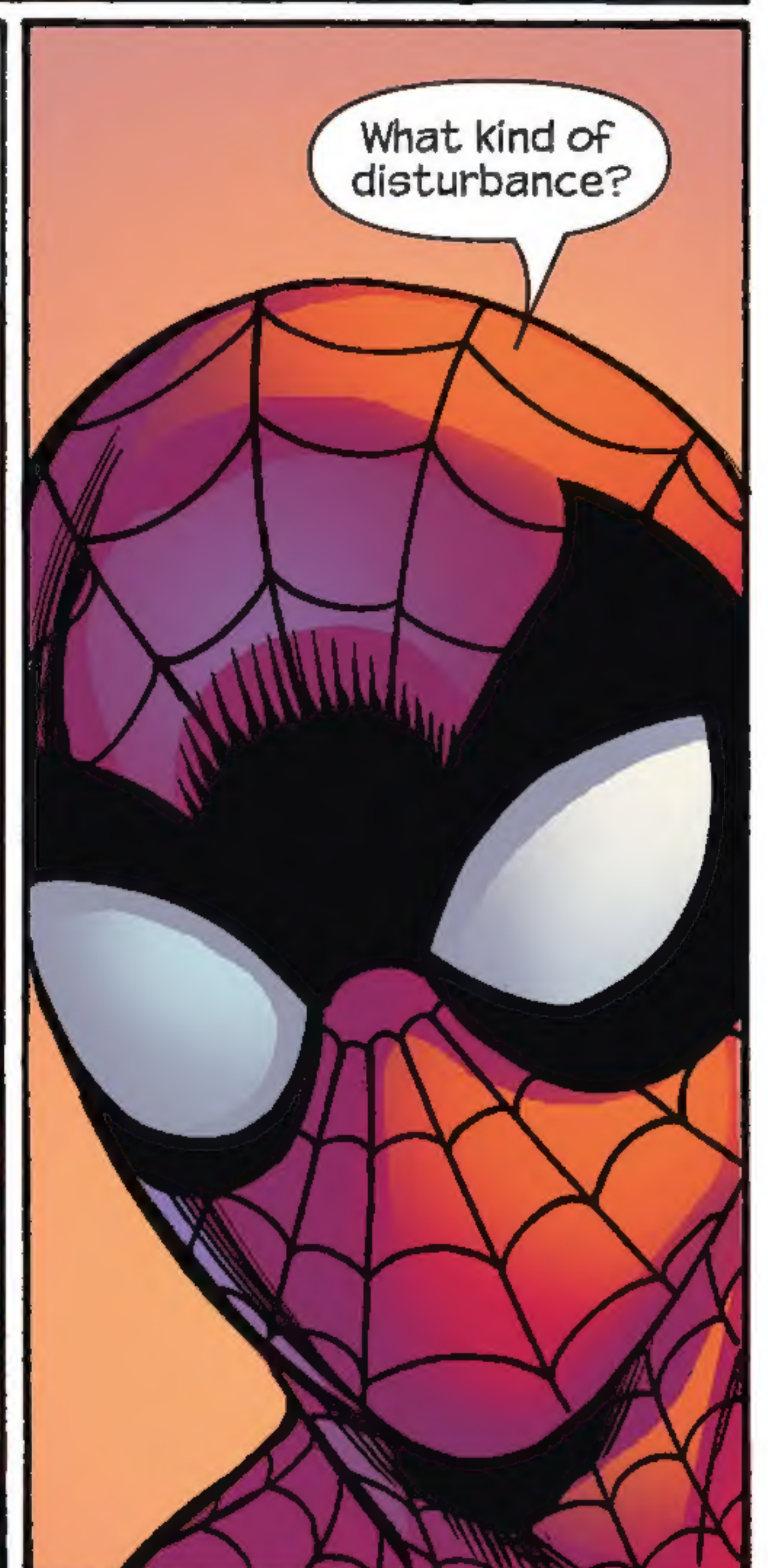
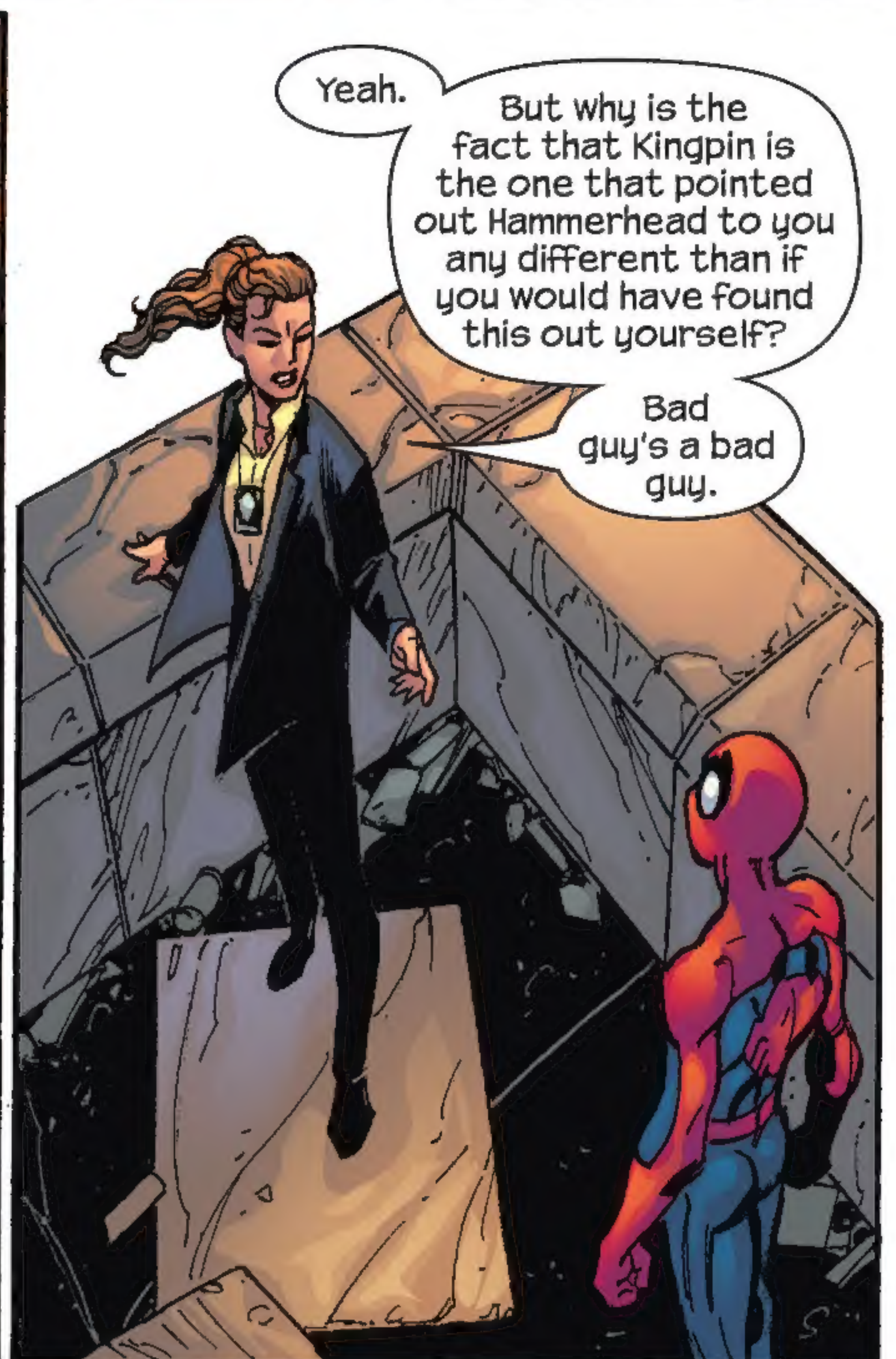
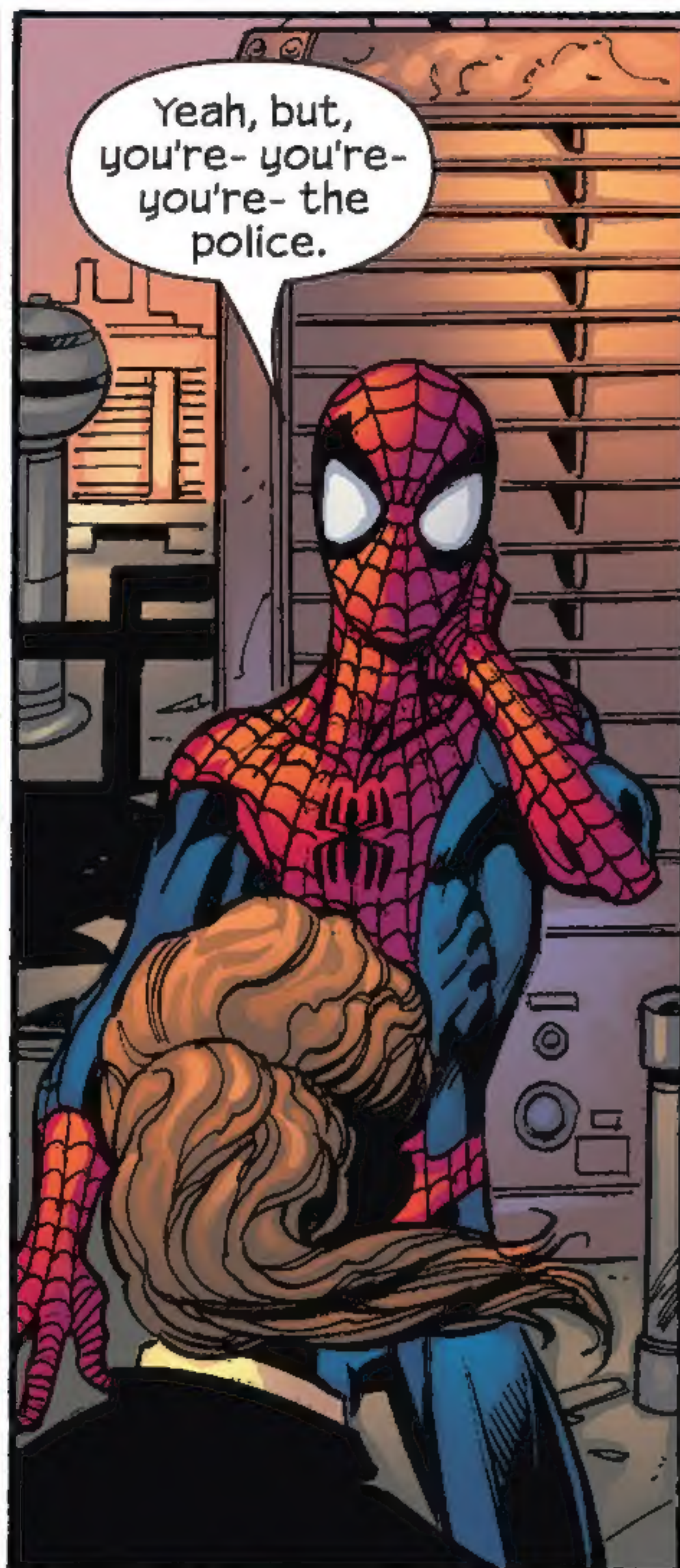
Okay.

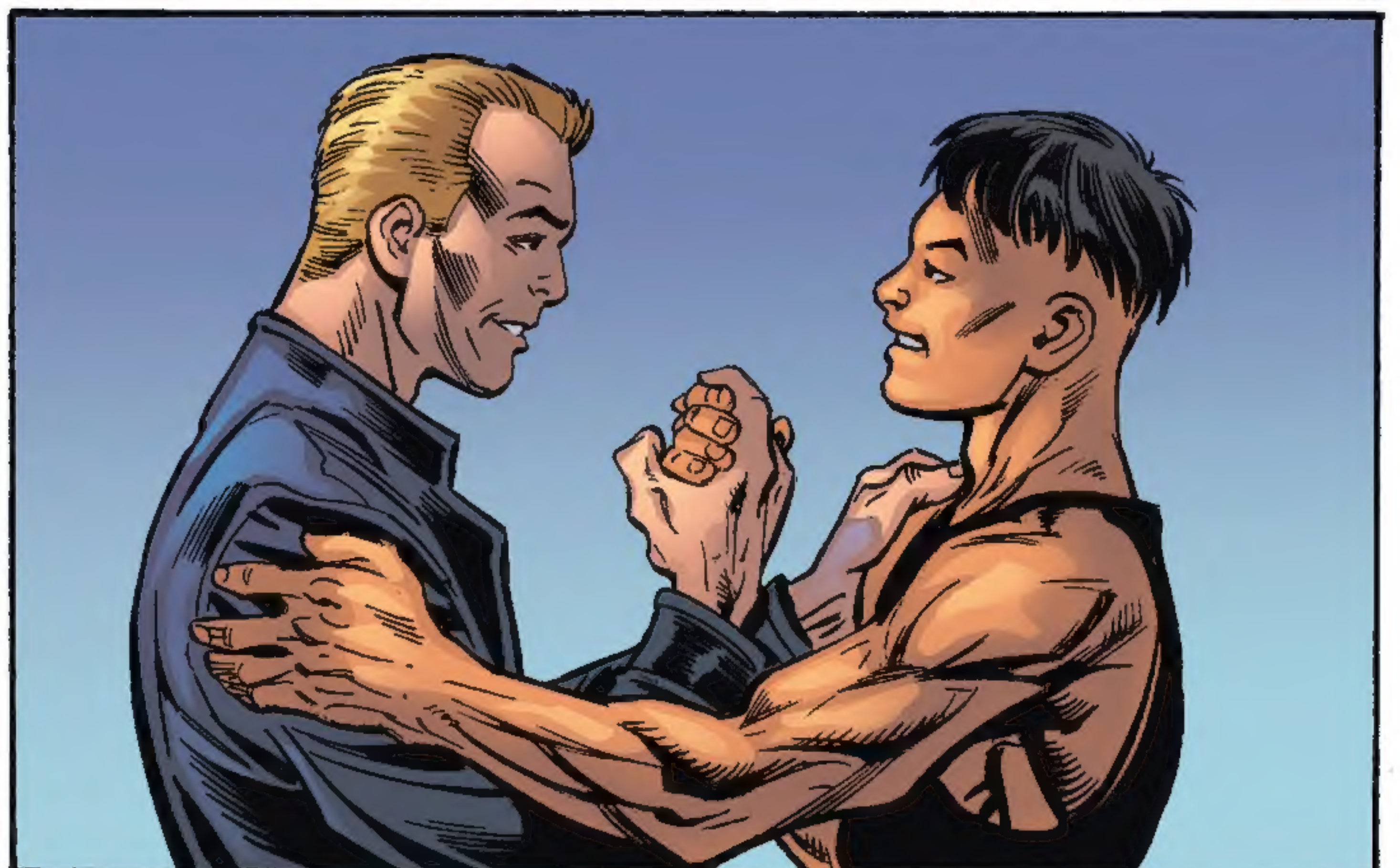
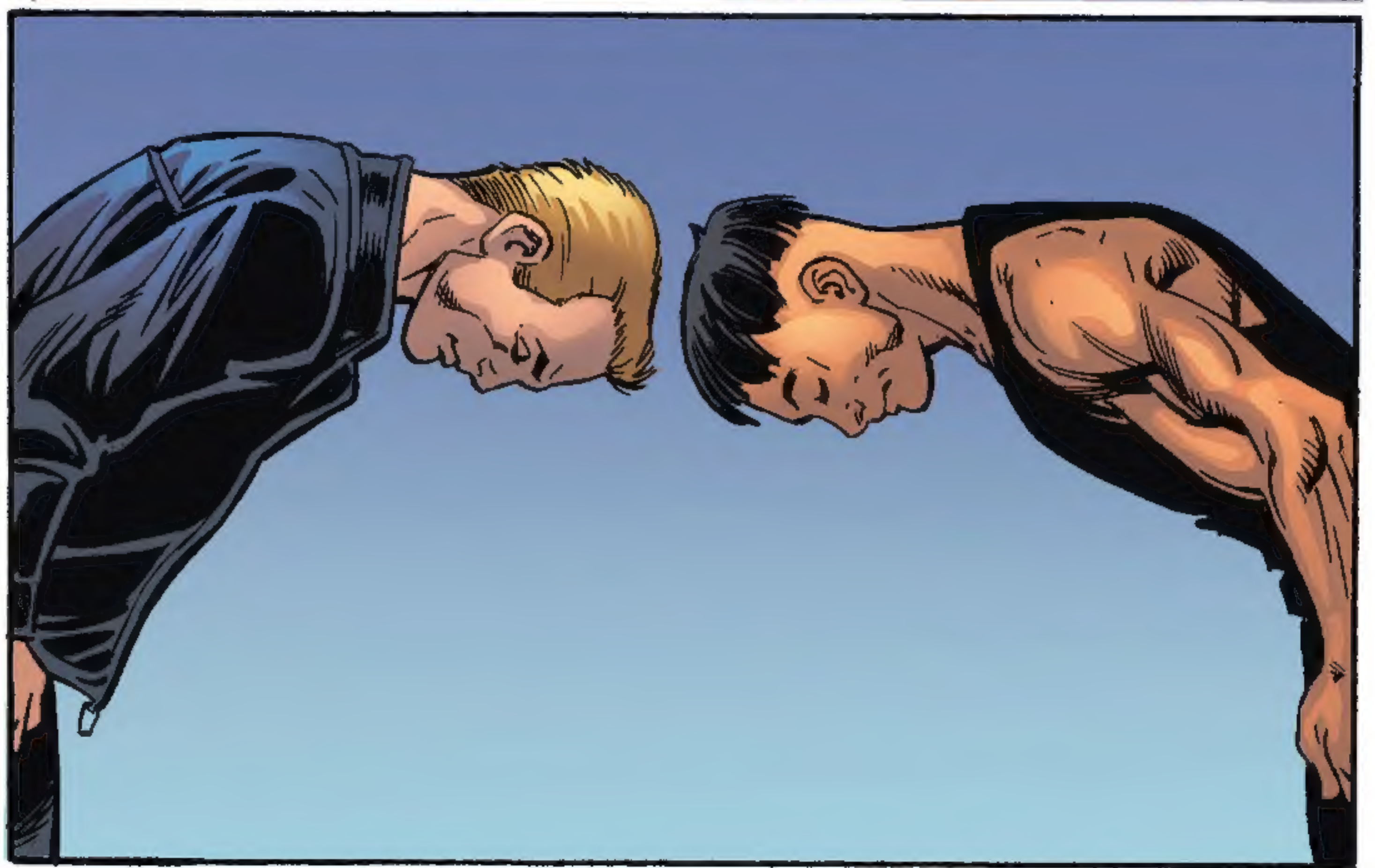
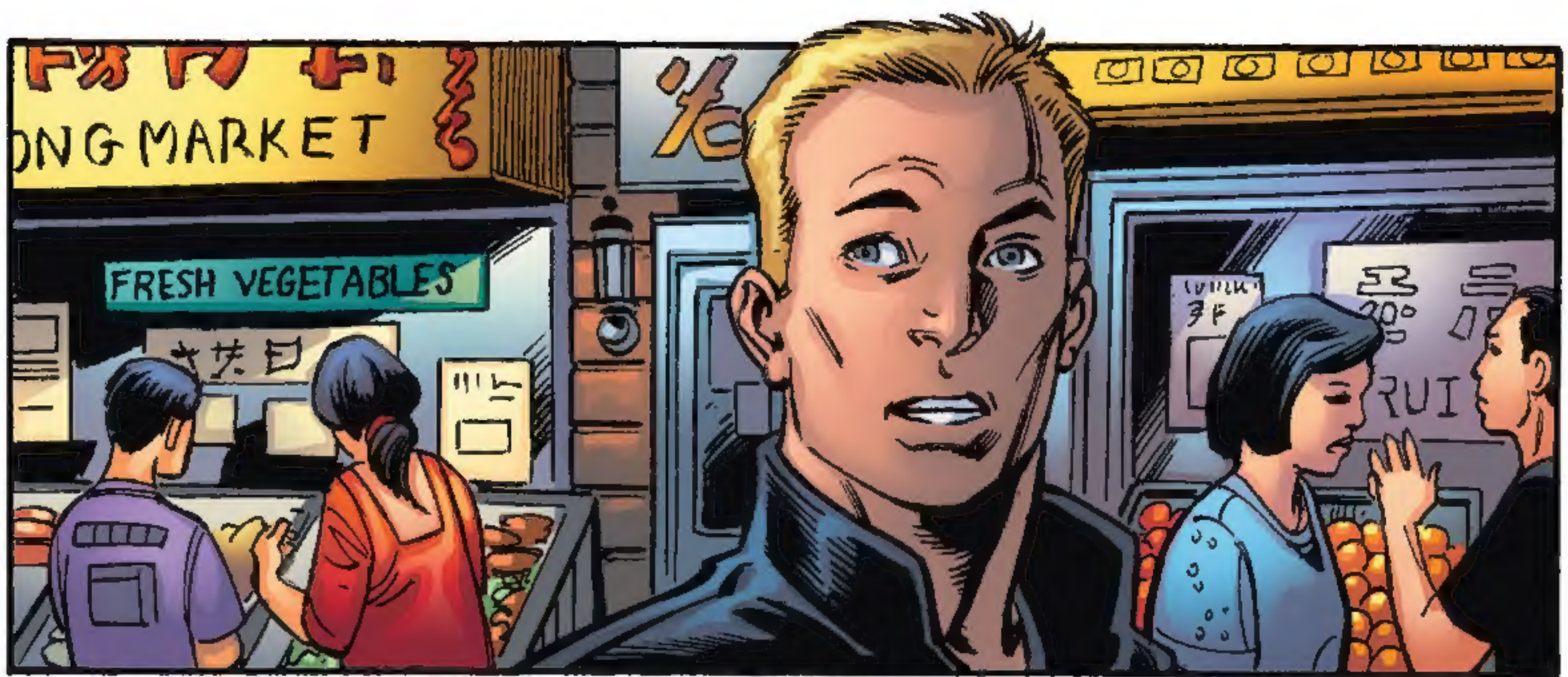
And, well, he, uh, he gave me the address to where he said this guy called Hammerhead lives.



Really?









Did you hear about Master Kee while you were in prison?

Yes.

Who's running the school now?

It's closed.



That's terrible.



I was shocked to hear you were back in New York.

I thought you'd left.



These people need me here.

They need someone to protect them.

The police do nothing.

Three!! Three youth gangs in one little Chinatown.

Three gangs and they're all fighting for pennies.



For pennies!! Literally.

They kill. They steal. They rape.

Their own people.



So, nothing's changed.



It will.

Because I will fight them.

Until they learn not to come here.

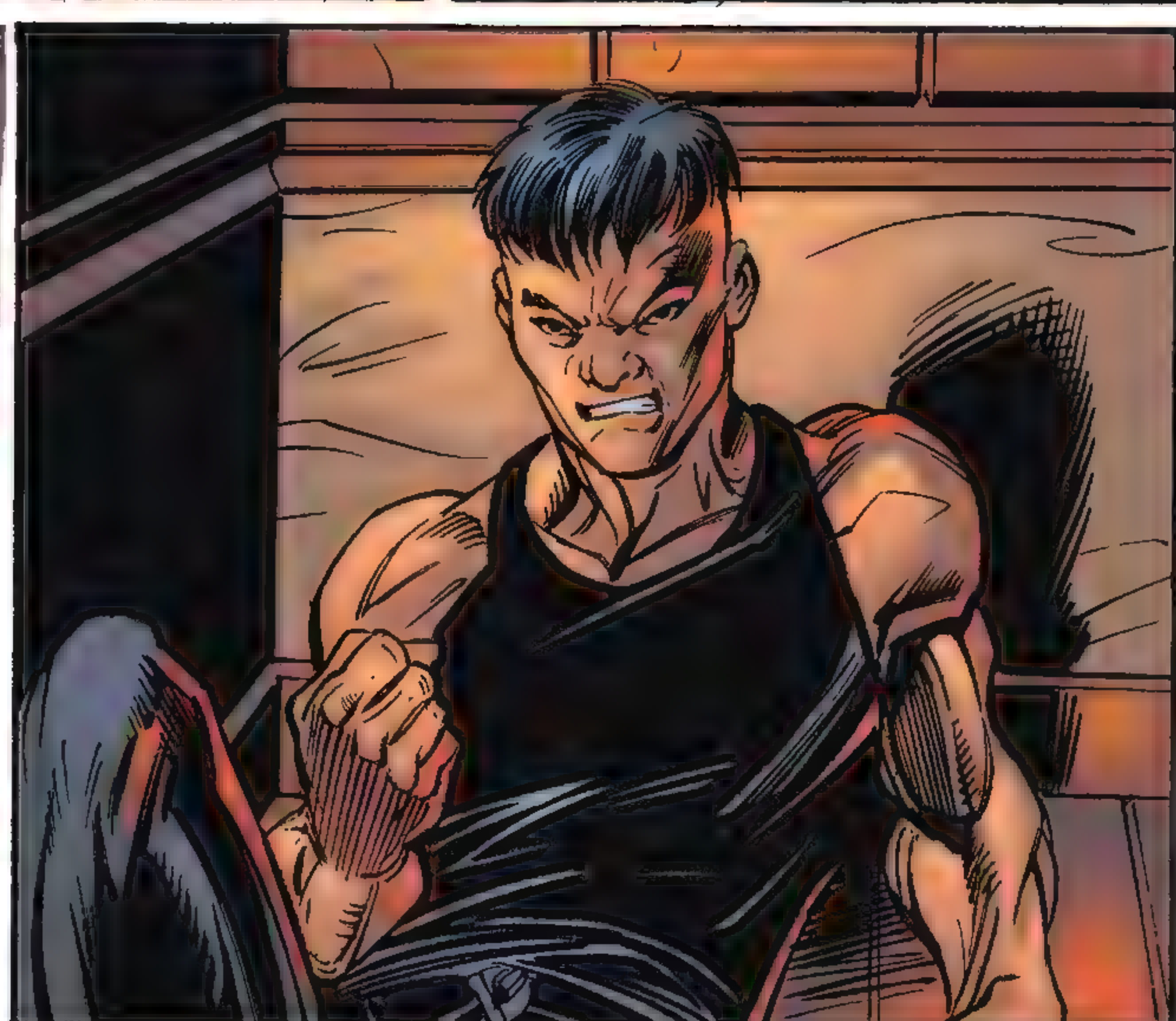
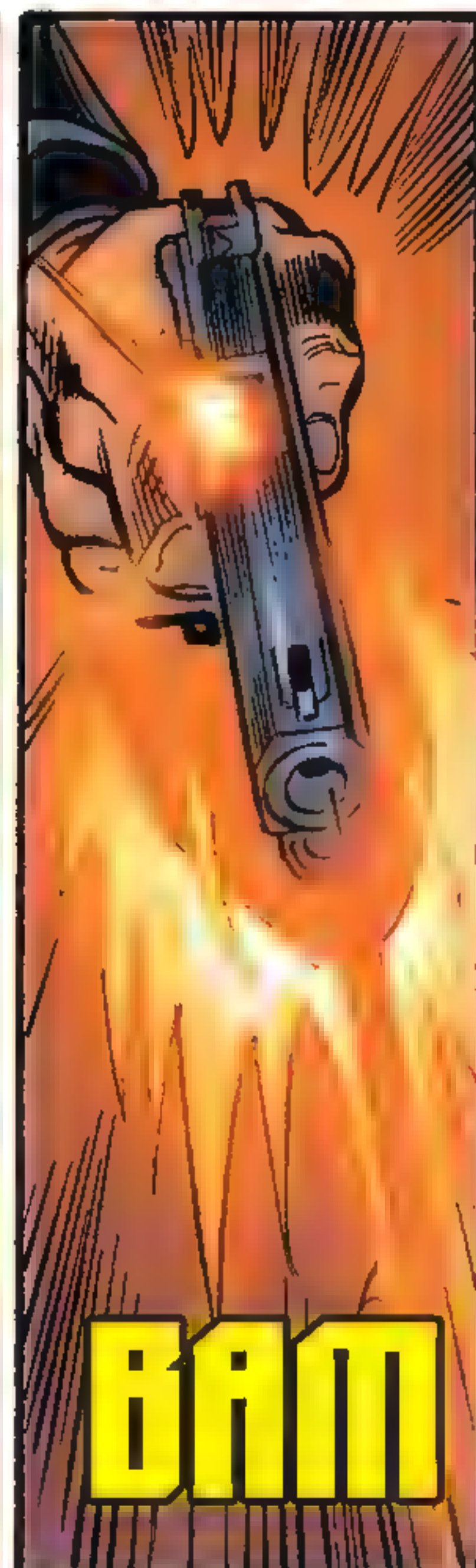
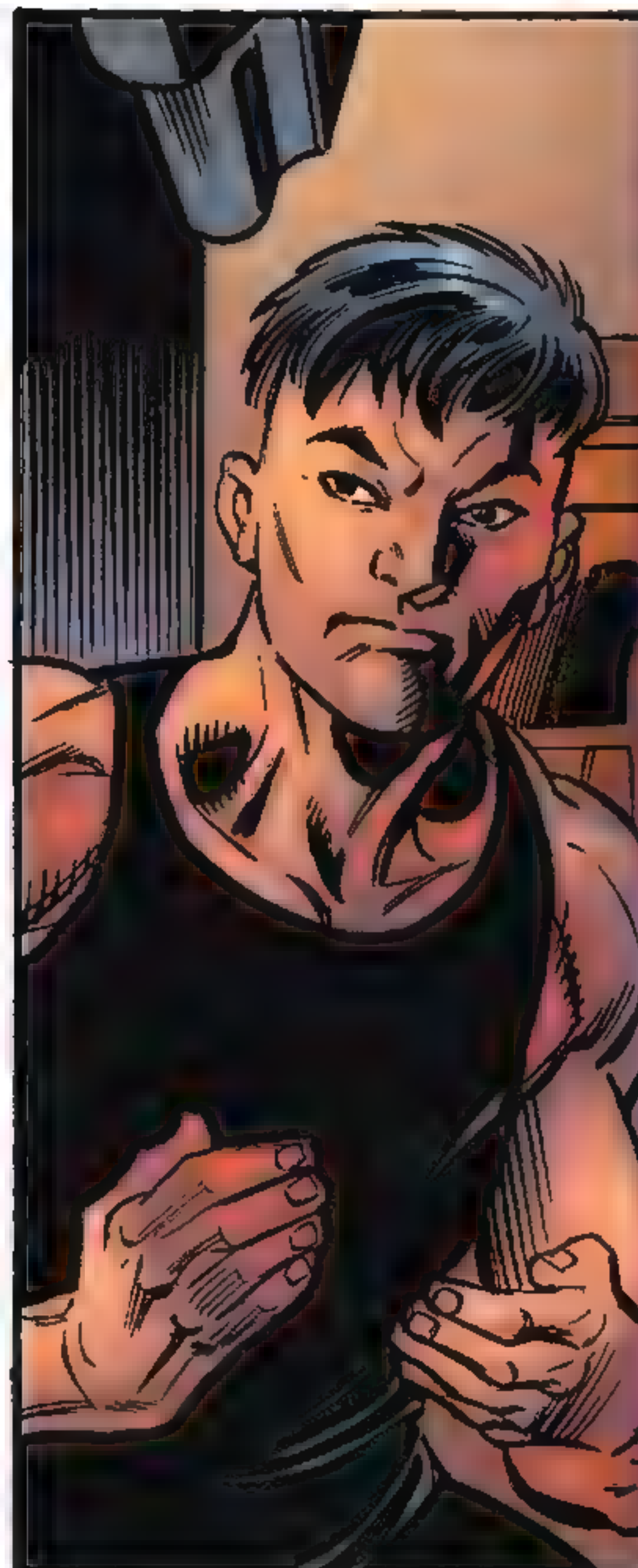
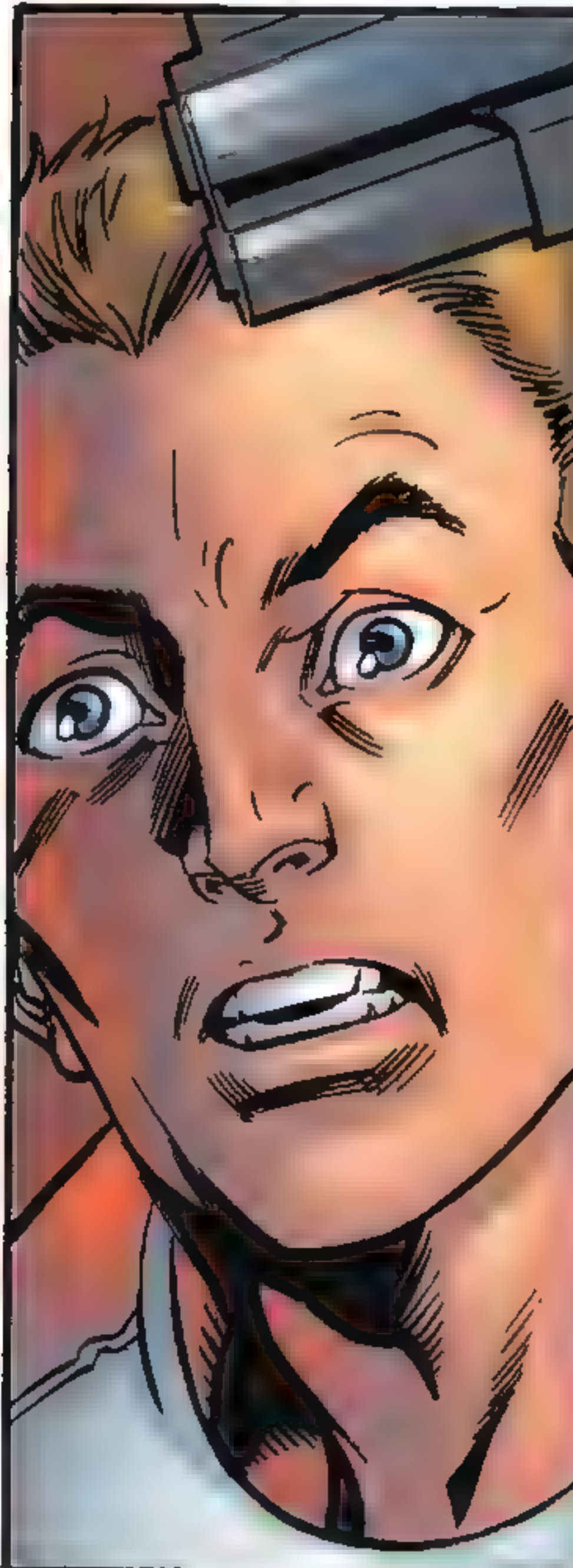
Okay, okay...

I'm sorry. It's been- it's been tense...

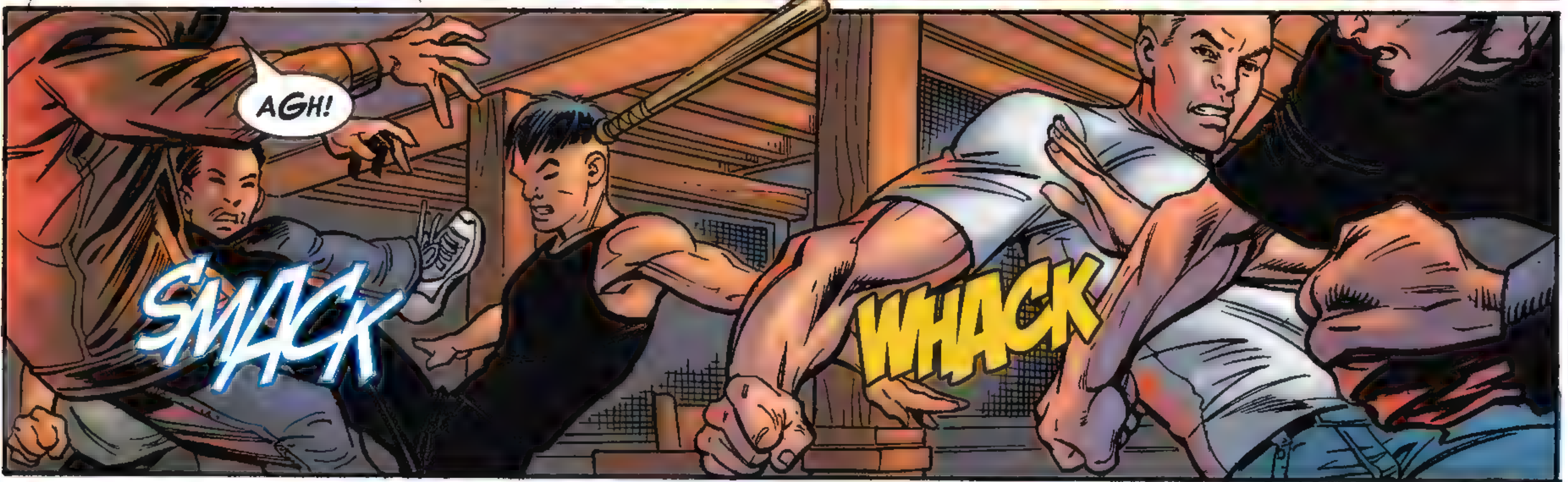


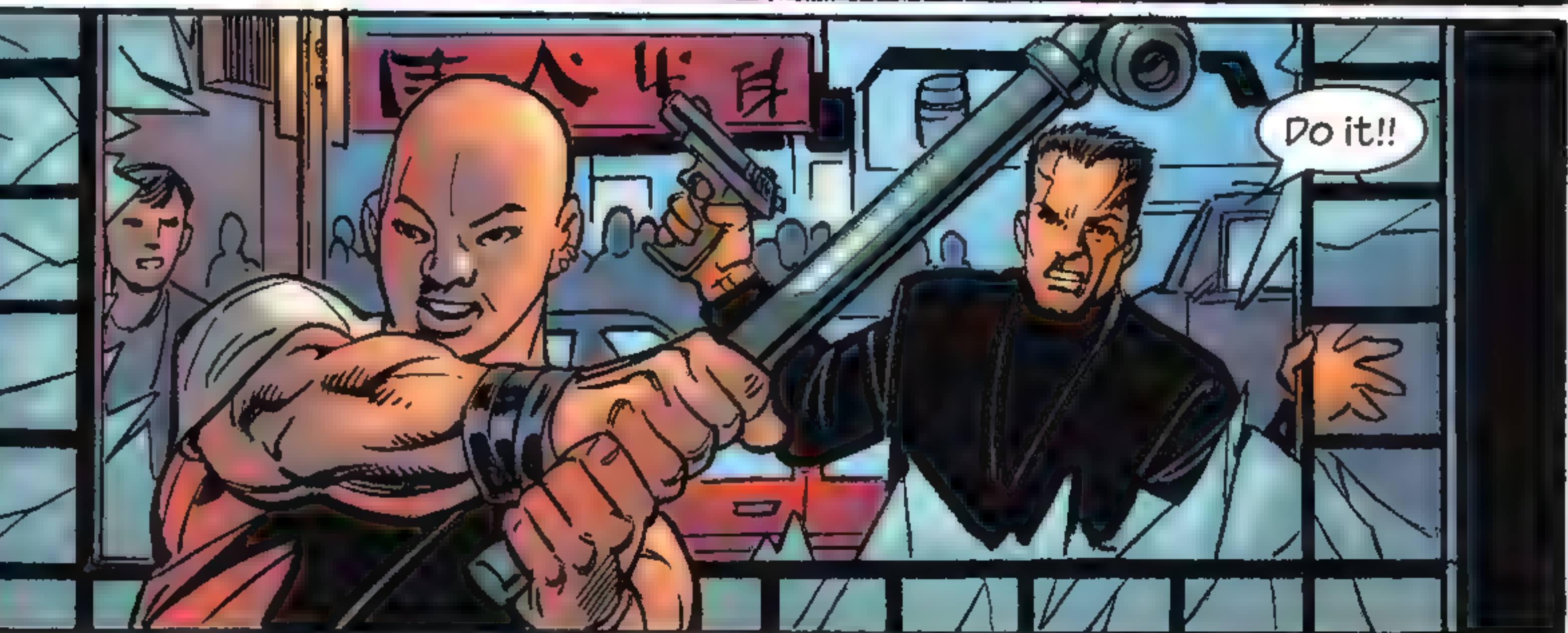
Well, they haven't learned yet.



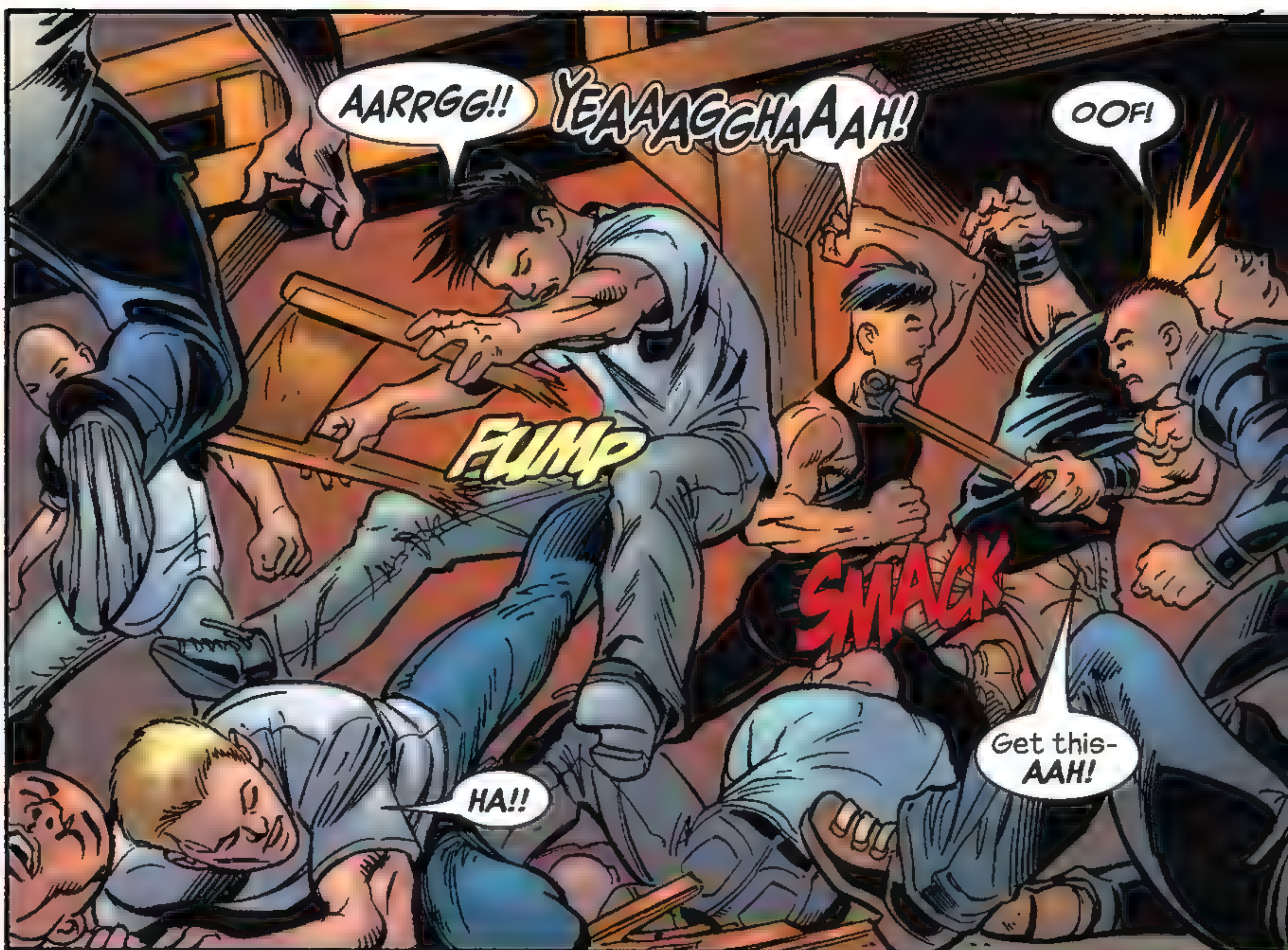


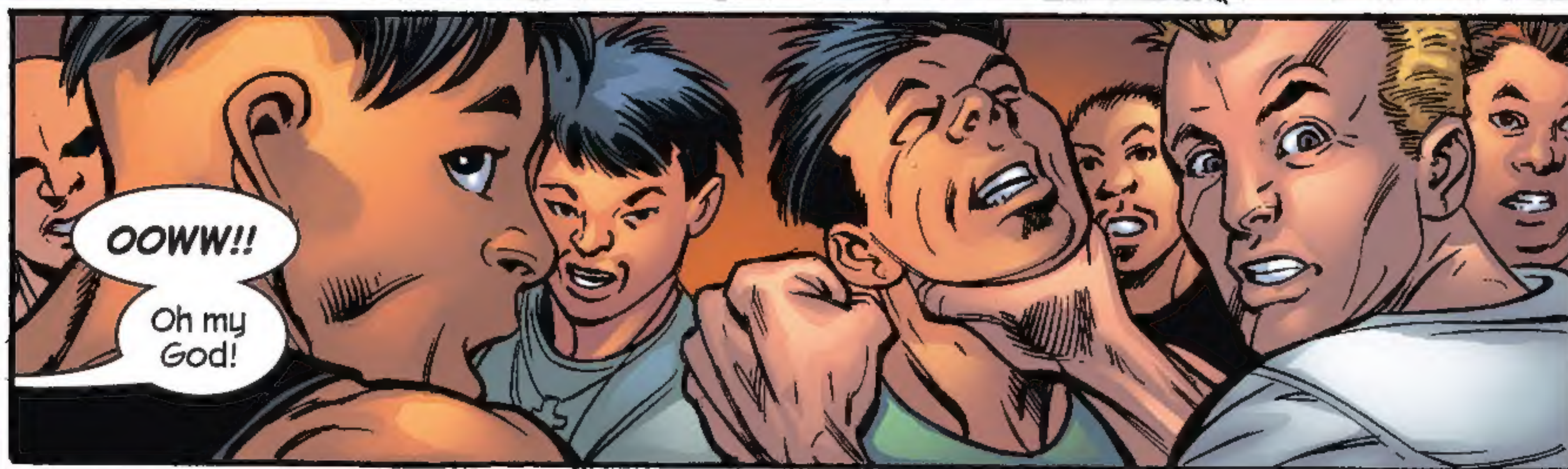














Hey, hey, hey!

You hurt one hair on my boyfriend's head...

...and me and you are going to have words.

Oh no...

Hi, sweetie!

Miss me?

To be continued...

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN

Still more mail on issue 78! Everybody seemed to really enjoy that one-off issue!

Hey guys,

I'm writing to comment on the "Dumped" issue. First I'd like to just say that Bendis has yet again shown why he is such a talented writer by taking something a lot of "normal" people go through, putting it into a super-hero comic and making it interesting and not just a lot of talking heads.

Well I guess the credit for that should really go to Bagley, but Bendis deserves the props for showing us Mary Jane's deep love and devotion to Peter, which is really cool. And even though I have the benefit of knowing what really makes Parker "special," I'm still like a lot of the characters in the story who ask "What makes him so special?"

While I'm writing this, I'd like to give a shout out to Bagley for his ability to take Bendis' stories and bring them to life on a page. Oh, and I especially love the way he draws the women of the book. I tell you what—seeing MJ just about makes me go in some Wolverine-I-see-a-redhead convulsions.

Keep up the good work, guys.

Jason D. Ivey
Proctorville, NC

Yeah—Bagley is great! He definitely deserves all the credit he gets!

I just purchased Ultimate Spider-Man 78 and it was an amazing issue! Making MJ the star was genius! Mr. Bendis and Mr. Bagley are doing exactly how comics should be done. Excellent work!!! What's so good about Ultimate Spider-Man? What do readers find in this comic book? In the words of Mary Jane, "everything!!!"

I just love this comic book! Thank you, Marvel!!!

Sincerely,
Jiggy Cruz
Philippines

Thank you, Jiggy!

Dear Ralph, Brian and Mark,

USM #78 was pretty special. It might well be my favorite issue of this comic so far, despite Spidey not even being a featured character. The thing that always really attracted me to Spider-Man is the cast of characters. Jonah, Robbie, Flash, Gwen, Aunt May, Norman, Glory. The list goes on and on, and I really wish we could see them more often. For some reason Spider-Man has historically attracted a strong cast of supporting characters. Arguably the best in comics. The strongest one of all (and usually highly under-used) is MJ.

From nearly the beginning of Spidey's adventures, it has been apparent that there is only one guy for Mary Jane. She was in the background for a long time while he dated Gwen and others, but somehow you knew that all the time she was waiting to get her man. Look back at some of those old Amazing Spider-Man stories drawn by John Romita, Gil Kane and Ross Andru. You'll see MJ in the background enduring Harry Osborn and yearning for Peter.

I think a lot of writers have not really known what to do with Mary Jane Watson, or even what truly motivates the gal. I knew after reading #78 that Brian was not one of those writers and that he knows MJ is at her best (and most interesting) when someone tries to prevent her from having what she wants. I'm really looking forward to seeing what Mr. Bendis has in store for our red-tressed heroine and that other what's-his-face in the red and blue pajamas, too.

Best wishes,
Steve Laming

I think I agree with everything you said, Steve! And I recommend everybody check out the *Essential Spider-Man* paperbacks to see the old stories you mention!

Just curious—will Spider-Man (or any other Ultimate Marvel super hero for that matter) ever have a birthday?

Zack Weiss

Well, that could be a lot of fun—who doesn't love a good birthday party!?

Ultimate Spider-Crew

I can't think of a time I've been happier to be wrong. Twice. When Ultimate Spider-Man first was introduced, I scoffed. After Spider-Man: Chapter One, 2099, Untold Tales of Spider-Man, MC2, and other various short-lived attempts at re-writing or altering continuity, I admit, I was a bit sore.

"It won't be any good," I said to my friends. I was wrong. And my friends made sure I knew it. The second time was months after #1 had come out. "It's really good!" my friends all told me. "Great," I said to them, "but that's just the first story arc or two. After that, the writer's original ideas will run dry. The title will shrivel up and blow away. Five years from now, nobody will even remember Ultimate Spider-Man!" And that was the second time I was wrong.

Luckily, my friends convinced me to start reading. I was quick to agree with them. Ultimate Spider-Man was (and is) one of the best comics on the market. And issue #78 is a perfect example why. No fight. No Spider-Man. Heck, hardly any Peter Parker. It was a character-driven story that had me quickly turning the pages to find out what Mary Jane would do. The emotional weight of the story poured from every panel.

I respect both Bendis and Bagley for their commitment to this title. Their vision has not dulled through the years but has instead grown sharper. Thank you, gentlemen, for proving me wrong and for the gift of five years of unforgettable Spider-Man stories.

Scott Shaffer
Charlotte, NC

Glad to have you along for the ride!

Dear Ralph, John and Nicole,

I just finished reading Ultimate Spider-Man #78 and I must say I love the book more and more! I just had to let you know that USM also has success in Belgium.

Yeah, that's right, I'm a reader from Belgium. I just wanted you to know here's Ultimate Spidey fan number one from Belgium.

Keep up the good work.
Naeyaert Ivan
Belgium

Belgium!

Hello Mighty Marvel!

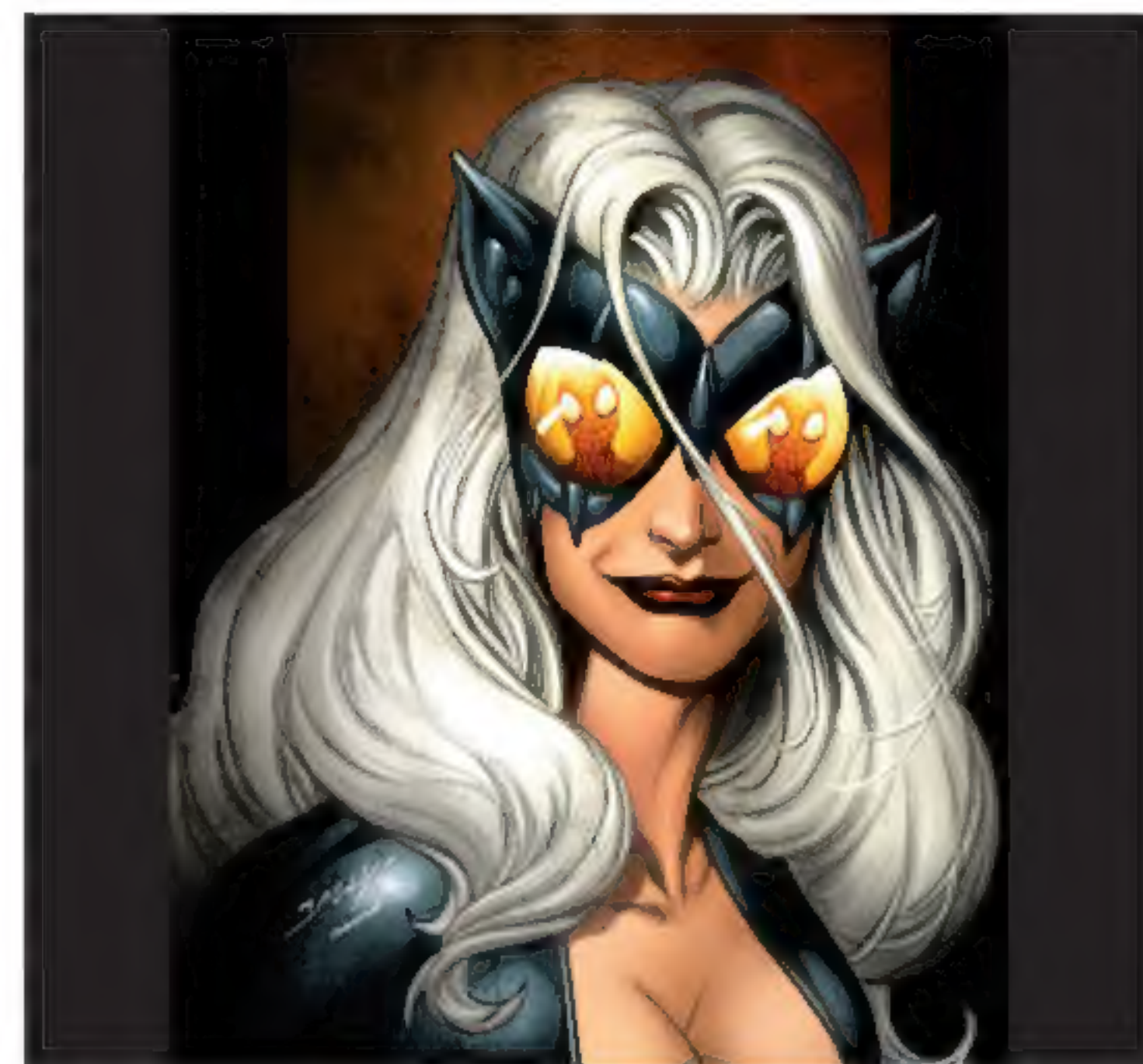
I just wanted to say Ultimate Spider-Man is the best comic out there! In fact, all Ultimate titles are the best out there!

When I started reading Ultimate Spidey, I wasn't too thrilled about Gwen Stacy living with the Parkers. But I started to like this new relationship. All I have to say is why did you kill her so early? I mean, I knew she would be killed off some time, but not so early!

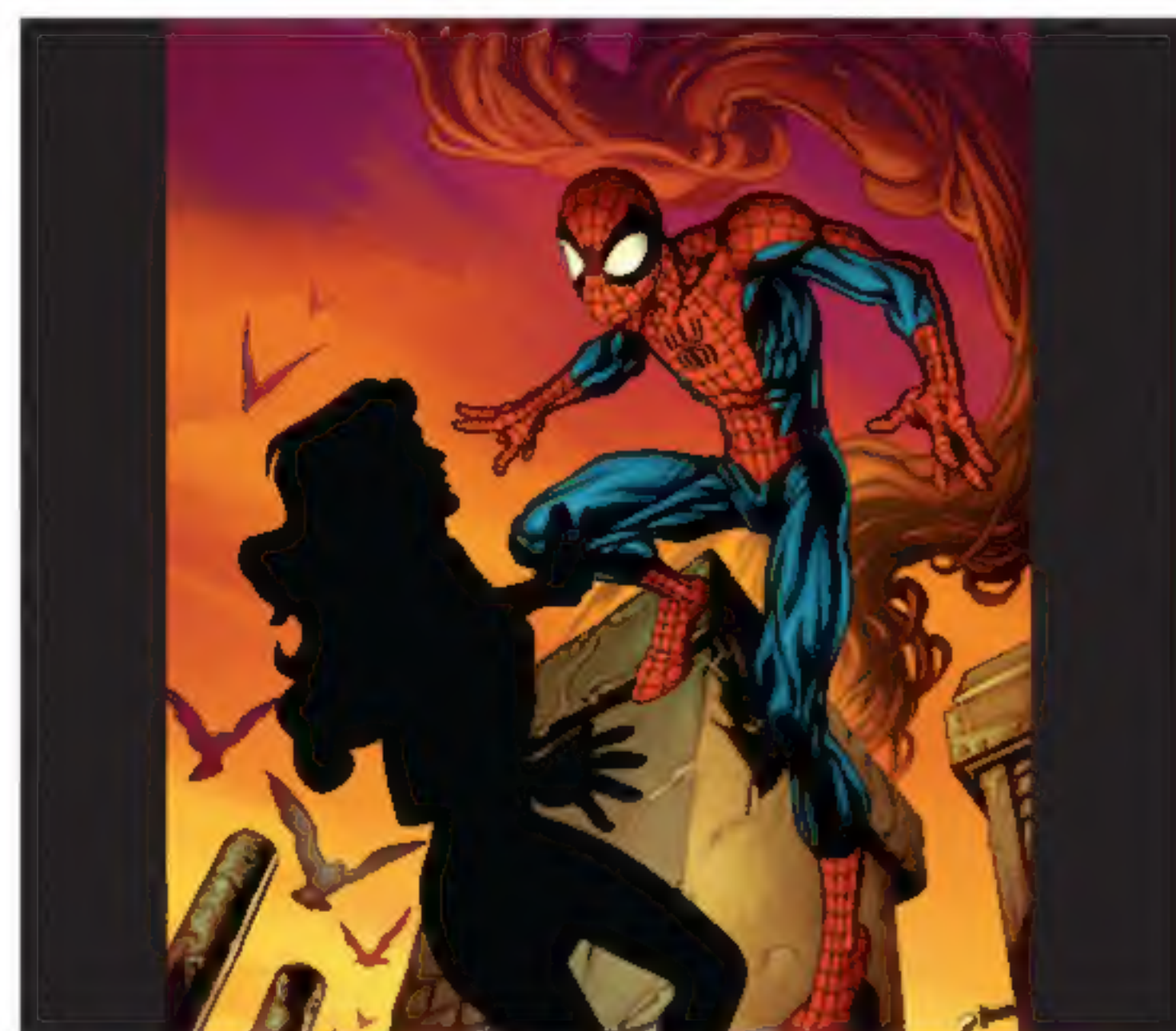
Bagley rocks!! I hope he stays on for a long time (longer than his 100-issue milestone). Bendis writes some amazing stuff too!

Jay Searzy

Like I said a couple issues ago, the death of Gwen was the most controversial thing we've ever done—what do the rest of you guys think about it?



Next: Black Cat's back in town, and more trouble is sure to follow! But hopefully she'll stop our favorite wall-crawler from getting his head blown off! And what's her involvement in this escalating Gang War, anyway? Join Bendis and Bagley for "Warriors Part 4," in thirty days!



But first: In just two short weeks—*Ultimate Spider-Man Annual #1!!!* Extra size, extra thrills, extra villains—plus Peter Parker's new girlfriend! You won't believe who it is, but she's been in these pages before! Join Bendis and rising superstar Mark Brooks (from *Amazing Spider-Man* and *Araña* fame) for "More Than You Bargained For"!

JOHN BARBER & NICOLE WILEY
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If you don't want your name and address printed, please let us know. Letters may be edited for content and length.

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